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Juristat

Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics



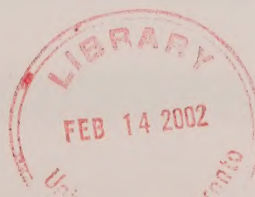
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CASE PROCESSING IN CRIMINAL COURTS, 1999/00

by Jennifer Pereira and Craig Grimes

Highlights

- In 1999/00, adult criminal courts in 9 provinces and territories processed 378,600 cases involving 811,400 charges. During this period, the overall median case elapsed time from first court appearance to case completion was 84 days.
- Case elapsed times are directly related to the number of court appearances. In 1999/00, each additional adult court appearance increased the median case elapsed time by approximately 30 days.
- In 1999/00, adult cases with a preliminary inquiry (6% of all cases) had a median elapsed time from first to last court appearance of 233 days, whereas those without a preliminary inquiry took 77 days to complete. The preliminary inquiry process, an option only for more serious offences, grants a hearing to determine whether the evidence assembled by the Crown is sufficient to proceed with trial in the higher court (i.e., Superior Court).
- The median processing time in adult court for trial cases was 150 days, compared to 77 days for non-trial cases. In trial cases, the guilt or innocence of the accused is determined based on the presentation of evidence and the testimony of witnesses, and as a result, these cases tend to have more court appearances and longer median case elapsed times.
- Adult court cases with a bench warrant had a median processing time of 253 days in 1999/00, compared to 70 days for cases without a bench warrant. Bench warrants (i.e., arrest warrants) are usually issued by the court when an individual fails to attend court, creating a situation where the court is simply unable to proceed with the case.
- Over the past five years, the number of adult court cases has declined 13% while the number of appearances in court has grown by 3%. During this period, the average number of appearances per case has increased from 4.2 appearances in 1995/96, to 4.8 appearances in 1999/00.
- In 1999/00, 102,000 cases were processed in the youth courts of Canada. Almost one-half of all cases (48%) were processed in two months or less (from the time of the youth's first court appearance to the date of decision or sentencing), one-third (33%) required between two months and six months, and 19% took longer than six months. The median elapsed time for all youth cases was 63 days.
- The median processing time for youth court cases decided through a trial process was 77 days, compared to 54 days for non-trial cases. Trial cases have a final decision of acquitted or guilty, where the conviction is not the result of a guilty plea.
- The number of cases processed in youth court has decreased 4% since 1998/99 and 8% since 1995/96. The number of cases per 10,000 youths has also decreased 10% from 465 cases in 1995/96 to 417 cases in 1999/00.

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INTRODUCTION

An offender's right to be brought to trial in a timely manner is a fundamental principle within the Canadian criminal justice system. Preparations for each case commence in the court registry with the scheduling of the first court appearance, and continue with further co-ordination of judicial resources throughout the criminal court process. There are a variety of factors, many of which are not under the direct control of the courts, that affect both case management and processing. Such factors include: the volume of cases being processed by a court; the complexity of cases; the types of offences being prosecuted; issues related to the co-ordination and availability of various participants within the criminal justice process; lawyers' decisions on the most appropriate course of action for their clients; and accused failing to appear in court.

The primary focus of this *Juristat* is the nature and extent of case processing time (elapsed time), with emphasis on those factors which have the greatest impact on the length of time it takes a case to be processed in the court system.¹ In the 1990 Supreme Court decision *R. v. Askov*,² the issue of reasonable elapsed time between charges being laid and the accused being brought to trial was considered, and then further examined in *R. v. Morin* [1992]. While the Supreme Court did not prescribe a strict time limit within which all criminal cases must be completed, it did indicate that most cases should be processed within an eight-to-ten month period.

The reference year for this report is 1999/00, with trend data covering a five-year period included to provide additional context. Data were collected through the Adult Criminal Court Survey (ACCS) and the Youth Court Survey (YCS) (See **Box 1**).

Box 1 – About the Surveys

The analysis in this report is based on data from the Adult Criminal Court Survey (ACCS) and the Youth Court Survey (YCS). Data on disposed federal statute charges are collected by the Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics (CCJS) in collaboration with provincial and territorial government departments responsible for adult and youth criminal courts.

The primary unit of analysis is the case, which the ACCS defines as one or more charges presented against an individual and disposed of in court on the same day. All case information that is used to define the case, is determined by the "most serious offence", as described in the methodology section. The ACCS includes cases involving persons 18 years or older at the time of the offence, youths who have been transferred to adult criminal court, and companies.

The YCS collects data from youth courts on persons aged 12 to 17 (at the time of the offence) appearing on federal statute offences. The primary unit of analysis for YCS data is also the case, but the definition differs from the case definition used by the ACCS. A case for the YCS is defined as one or more charges against an individual that are first presented in court on the same day.

The start date case definition used by the YCS aggregates charges into cases differently than the end date case definition used by the ACCS. This difference in counting procedures produces different case counts and as a result, no direct comparisons should be made between ACCS and YCS case elapsed time data. For more information on the counting procedures used by the ACCS and YCS, please see the methodology section at the end of this *Juristat*.

At the time of this report, adult criminal courts in seven provinces and two territories reported to the ACCS. Reporting jurisdictions include: Newfoundland and Labrador, Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, Quebec, Ontario, Saskatchewan, Alberta, Yukon, and the Northwest Territories. In addition, Alberta and the Yukon report Superior Court data to the ACCS. These jurisdictions represent approximately 80% of the national adult criminal court caseload. The adult court information presented in this report covers only these nine participating jurisdictions.

All youth courts in Canada representing all provinces and territories have reported to the YCS since 1992/93.

¹ Processing time, or elapsed time, refers to the time (expressed in days) required to process a case from first to last court appearance. Elapsed time statistics are presented in time ranges or as the median number of days to process a case.

² 59 C.C.C. (3d) 449. In this decision, the Supreme Court affirmed the right of an accused to be brought to trial without excessive delay.

CASE PROCESSING IN ADULT COURTS

The number of charges and cases processed is one indicator of the demand being placed on a court. In 1999/00, adult criminal courts in 9 provinces and territories processed 378,586 cases involving 811,382 charges. During this period, the overall median case elapsed time from first court appearance to case completion was 84 days.

Almost all cases (88%) had a *Criminal Code* offence as the most serious charge in the case.³ *Crimes against the person* accounted for 20% of the total number of cases in 1999/00, with *Crimes against property* accounting for a further 25%. *Traffic-related offences* represented 14% of all cases, while the category *Other Criminal Code* (including weapons and public order offences, among others), accounted for 29% of all cases. The remaining 12% of cases arose with respect to *Other federal statute offences*, which comprises *Drug-related offences*, and *Other federal statutes*.⁴

The type of case being heard by the court is important because some offences take longer to process than others. For example, with a median elapsed time of 126 days, cases dealing with *Crimes against the person* took 50% longer to complete than *Crimes against property* cases, which had a median elapsed time of 84 days in 1999/00. The offences with the longest median elapsed times were sexual abuse (210 days) and sexual assault (209 days), followed by homicide and related (178 days) and drug trafficking (174 days) (See **Figure 1**).

In 1999/00, the most frequently occurring offences were common assault and impaired driving, each accounting for 12% of all cases. The median elapsed times for these offences were 111 days and 91 days respectively. Offences involving theft were also very common (10% of cases), with a median elapsed time of 63 days.

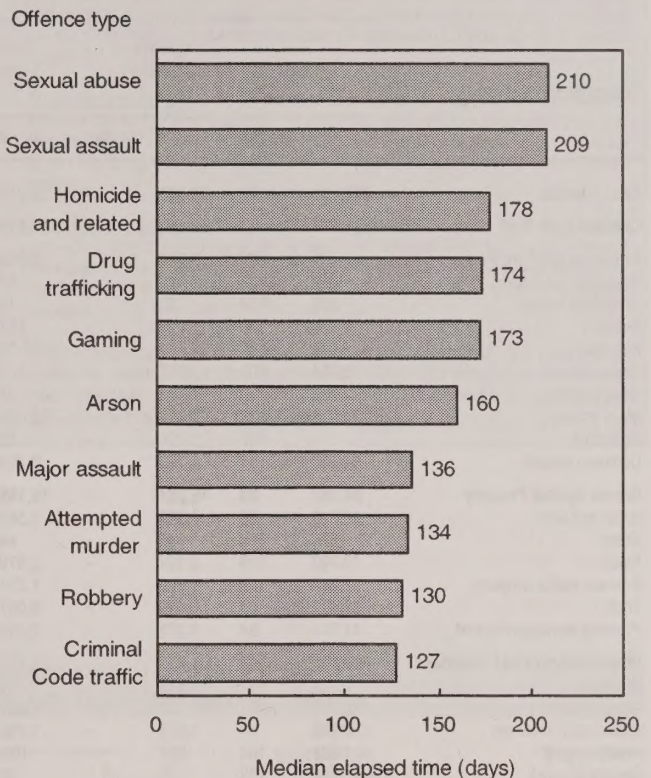
Case elapsed times are directly related to the number of court appearances

In 1999/00, adult courts in participating jurisdictions processed 1.8 million case appearances.⁵ The number of case appearances is an excellent overall indicator of court workload because it relates directly to the activity consuming the most court resources. Further, the number of court appearances needed to dispose of a criminal case is the primary factor in determining the case elapsed time. Generally, each additional court appearance increases the median case elapsed time by approximately 30 days (See **Box 2**).

During the reference year, cases needing two appearances to reach completion had an overall median elapsed time of 28 days. Cases needing three appearances required 67 days to complete, while cases needing four appearances took 105 days to reach completion, and for cases needing six or more appearances, the median elapsed time was 238 days. While this pattern holds for total cases, the impact of additional appearances on elapsed times is even more significant for some offences. For example, the median elapsed time for sexual assault and sexual abuse cases rises much faster with additional appearances (See **Table 1**).

Figure 1

Median elapsed time from first to last adult criminal court appearance
Case types with the longest processing times
Nine provinces and territories in Canada, 1999/00



Notes: Combined, the ten offences listed in the chart, with the longest median case elapsed times represent 13% of the cases heard in adult criminal court. Data do not include New Brunswick, Manitoba, British Columbia and Nunavut.

Source: Adult Criminal Court Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

³ For statistical purposes, when a case has more than one charge, it is necessary to decide which charge will be used to represent the case. If the case includes a conviction, that charge will always be considered the most serious. The most serious offence in a case with multiple convictions is determined based on the type of convicted offences and the sentences imposed. See the methodology section or refer to the publication Adult Criminal Court Data Tables, 1999/00 (Catalogue 85F0033XIE) for more details.

⁴ Federal statute offences refer to offences against Canadian federal statutes, such as the Customs Act, the Employment Insurance Act, Firearms Act, the Income Tax Act, and the Controlled Drugs and Substances Act (CDA). This offence category excludes Criminal Code of Canada offences.

⁵ One case appearance is counted for each day in court for the most serious offence in the case (e.g., an accused having court appearances on three different days equals 3 case appearances).

Table 1

**Median case elapsed time in adult criminal court by number of appearances,
Nine provinces and territories in Canada, 1999/00**

| Offence group | Median elapsed time (days) | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------------|------------|---------------------------|----------|-----------------------------|-----------|-----------------------------|-----------|-----------------------------|------------|-----------------------------|------------|-------------------------------------|------------|
| | TOTAL | | 1 appearance (One Day) | | Cases with 2 appearances | | Cases with 3 appearances | | Cases with 4 appearances | | Cases with 5 appearances | | Cases with 6 plus appearances | |
| | # | median | # | median | # | median | # | median | # | median | # | median | # | median |
| Total Offences | 378,586 | 84 | 69,658 | - | 59,271 | 28 | 52,910 | 67 | 44,482 | 105 | 35,339 | 140 | 116,926 | 238 |
| Criminal Code Total | 334,414 | 87 | 57,567 | - | 51,616 | 25 | 47,791 | 66 | 40,451 | 105 | 32,207 | 140 | 104,782 | 235 |
| Crimes Against the Person | 77,441 | 126 | 6,308 | - | 9,086 | 29 | 11,267 | 77 | 10,681 | 109 | 8,910 | 139 | 31,189 | 231 |
| Homicide and related | 419 | 178 | 46 | - | 27 | 28 | 27 | 56 | 27 | 98 | 37 | 130 | 255 | 280 |
| Attempted murder | 325 | 134 | 20 | - | 18 | 22 | 25 | 56 | 19 | 44 | 23 | 90 | 220 | 192 |
| Robbery | 4,435 | 130 | 283 | - | 257 | 8 | 361 | 32 | 392 | 58 | 414 | 97 | 2,728 | 209 |
| Kidnapping | 275 | 112 | 19 | - | 28 | 5 | 31 | 64 | 27 | 132 | 41 | 112 | 129 | 221 |
| Sexual assault | 5,388 | 209 | 273 | - | 361 | 43 | 473 | 105 | 551 | 140 | 534 | 180 | 3,196 | 298 |
| Sexual abuse | 1,276 | 210 | 88 | - | 84 | 44 | 117 | 91 | 133 | 120 | 117 | 173 | 737 | 309 |
| Major assault | 21,018 | 136 | 1,407 | - | 2,096 | 27 | 2,794 | 75 | 2,788 | 111 | 2,446 | 139 | 9,487 | 238 |
| Abduction | 125 | 127 | 20 | - | 12 | 77 | 12 | 130 | 17 | 155 | 13 | 169 | 51 | 228 |
| Common assault | 44,180 | 111 | 4,152 | - | 6,203 | 33 | 7,427 | 77 | 6,727 | 107 | 5,285 | 139 | 14,386 | 216 |
| Crimes Against Property | 94,707 | 84 | 15,282 | - | 16,105 | 28 | 13,156 | 62 | 10,990 | 98 | 8,650 | 131 | 30,524 | 232 |
| Break and enter | 12,719 | 90 | 1,332 | - | 1,565 | 16 | 1,725 | 47 | 1,526 | 77 | 1,347 | 115 | 5,224 | 208 |
| Arson | 575 | 160 | 35 | - | 44 | 21 | 51 | 66 | 48 | 87 | 66 | 120 | 331 | 254 |
| Fraud | 19,799 | 119 | 3,104 | - | 2,679 | 28 | 2,385 | 68 | 2,162 | 112 | 1,854 | 148 | 7,615 | 274 |
| Possess stolen property | 12,932 | 100 | 1,609 | - | 1,734 | 21 | 1,664 | 57 | 1,592 | 91 | 1,292 | 125 | 5,041 | 229 |
| Theft | 37,461 | 63 | 7,430 | - | 8,067 | 28 | 5,464 | 62 | 4,192 | 98 | 3,005 | 128 | 9,303 | 223 |
| Property damage/mischief | 11,221 | 84 | 1,772 | - | 2,016 | 28 | 1,867 | 70 | 1,470 | 105 | 1,086 | 138 | 3,010 | 217 |
| Other Criminal Code Violations | 109,013 | 56 | 23,813 | - | 18,121 | 16 | 15,584 | 55 | 12,362 | 90 | 9,488 | 125 | 29,645 | 213 |
| Weapons | 7,219 | 112 | 894 | - | 836 | 27 | 997 | 65 | 874 | 101 | 752 | 133 | 2,866 | 230 |
| Administration of justice | 40,375 | 27 | 10,167 | - | 7,059 | 7 | 5,473 | 29 | 4,278 | 64 | 3,220 | 97 | 10,178 | 182 |
| Public order offences | 8,875 | 67 | 1,652 | - | 1,730 | 25 | 1,403 | 64 | 1,024 | 101 | 805 | 133 | 2,261 | 217 |
| Morals-sexual | 4,801 | 104 | 657 | - | 839 | 37 | 770 | 79 | 563 | 105 | 437 | 146 | 1,535 | 256 |
| Gaming | 888 | 173 | 76 | - | 93 | 21 | 87 | 84 | 65 | 102 | 105 | 103 | 462 | 329 |
| Unspecified Criminal Code | 46,855 | 67 | 10,367 | - | 7,564 | 24 | 6,854 | 67 | 5,558 | 99 | 4,169 | 136 | 12,343 | 226 |
| Traffic | 53,253 | 98 | 12,164 | - | 8,304 | 28 | 7,784 | 91 | 6,418 | 145 | 5,159 | 187 | 13,424 | 294 |
| Criminal Code traffic | 7,510 | 127 | 1,001 | - | 920 | 28 | 1,076 | 77 | 944 | 125 | 840 | 162 | 2,729 | 259 |
| Impaired driving | 45,743 | 91 | 11,163 | - | 7,384 | 28 | 6,708 | 91 | 5,474 | 148 | 4,319 | 191 | 10,695 | 302 |
| Other Federal Statute Total | 44,172 | 67 | 12,091 | - | 7,655 | 35 | 5,119 | 70 | 4,031 | 113 | 3,132 | 147 | 12,144 | 264 |
| Drug Related Offences | 21,458 | 90 | 3,941 | - | 3,321 | 28 | 2,552 | 57 | 2,075 | 98 | 1,646 | 126 | 7,923 | 242 |
| Drug trafficking | 7,742 | 174 | 547 | - | 594 | 28 | 686 | 58 | 797 | 105 | 645 | 144 | 4,473 | 267 |
| Drug possession | 13,716 | 56 | 3,394 | - | 2,727 | 28 | 1,866 | 57 | 1,278 | 95 | 1,001 | 119 | 3,450 | 219 |
| Other Federal Statutes | 22,714 | 48 | 8,150 | - | 4,334 | 46 | 2,567 | 84 | 1,956 | 128 | 1,486 | 174 | 4,221 | 306 |

- zero (i.e., the case was completed in a single appearance)

Notes: Data do not include New Brunswick, Manitoba, British Columbia and Nunavut.

With the introduction of new drug legislation, some drug offences have been coded to the "Other Federal Statutes" category.

This inflates the OFS group and undercounts drug offences. This will be corrected with changes to data collection programs.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Adult Criminal Court Survey.

Multiple-charge cases take one-third longer to process

The number of charges in a case affects the time needed to process the case. In 1999/00, single-charge cases had an overall median elapsed time of 74 days compared to a median of 98 days for multiple-charge cases. Cases with two charges had a median elapsed time that was almost 20 days longer (92 days) than single-charge cases, and the processing time for adult cases with three or more charges was over 30 days longer (105 days).

Additional charges in a case generally add to the processing complexity and may indicate more serious criminal activity, which appears to lengthen the court process. This is reflected in the average number of appearances needed to complete the two case types. Single-charge cases required an average of 4.4 case appearances to reach completion compared to an average of 5.2 appearances for multiple-charge cases (See Table 2).

Box 2 – Case Processing

There are many paths that a criminal trial can take as it makes its way through an adult criminal court in Canada. These variations in case processing depend on several factors including the seriousness of the offences being heard, and the elections made by the Crown and the accused. For most cases, the trial process in adult provincial/territorial criminal courts will include some or all of the court appearance elements listed below.

First Appearance: In many cases, the accused will appear in court, plead guilty and receive sentence on the first appearance. For more serious offences, the first court appearance is often a bail hearing where the court must determine if the accused should be released pending trial.

Crown Elections: The Crown is eligible to elect the type of proceeding for hybrid offences, which are also known as "dual procedure" offences. Hybrid offences account for approximately 80% of infractions in the *Criminal Code*. The defining *Criminal Code* sections for hybrid offences specify that the Crown may try the case in one of two ways; (1) as a summary conviction offence, or (2) as the more serious indictable offence.

Defence Elections: Where permitted under the *Criminal Code*, the accused may elect to be tried in adult provincial/territorial criminal court or in Superior Court – with or without a jury. If the accused elects to be tried in Superior Court, a preliminary inquiry may be held. (See preliminary

inquiries below). The defence is not eligible to elect the mode of trial for offences that are either the absolute jurisdiction of provincial/territorial court or Superior Court. Summary conviction offences, and indictable offences identified under *Criminal Code* section 553 are the absolute jurisdiction of provincial/territorial court, and indictable offences identified under *Criminal Code* section 469 are the absolute jurisdiction of Superior Court.

Preliminary Inquiries: The purpose of the preliminary inquiry process is to determine if there is sufficient evidence in the case to proceed to trial in a higher court level (i.e., Superior Court), and provide the accused an opportunity to review the Crown's evidence before proceeding to the higher court.

Fitness Hearings: When the accused's mental health is brought into question, the court may order a psychiatric examination. In the fitness hearing that results, the accused will be found fit for trial or remanded in custody until the lieutenant governor of the province or territory permits release.

Trial: A trial becomes necessary when the accused enters a plea of not guilty. In some cases, the accused may refuse to enter a plea, and the court will enter a plea of not guilty on behalf of the accused. A guilty plea will usually result in an immediate conviction.

Table 2



Average number of appearances per case and median case elapsed time Adult criminal court cases in nine provinces and territories in Canada, 1999/00

| Case Characteristic | Cases | | Average appearances per case | Case elapsed time (median days) |
|--|----------------|------------|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| | # | % | | |
| Total Cases | 378,586 | 100 | 4.8 | 84 |
| Single-charge cases | 198,602 | 52 | 4.4 | 74 |
| Multiple-charge cases | 179,984 | 48 | 5.2 | 98 |
| Total with a known procedure | 312,108 | 100 | 4.9 | 86 |
| Summary conviction cases | 251,977 | 81 | 4.6 | 78 |
| Indictable cases | 60,131 | 19 | 6.1 | 125 |
| Trial Cases | 35,310 | 9 | 5.5 | 150 |
| Trial convictions | 26,033 | 7 | 5.5 | 135 |
| Trial acquittals | 9,277 | 2 | 5.5 | 183 |
| Non-trial Cases | 343,276 | 91 | 4.7 | 77 |
| Non-trial decisions without conviction | 141,042 | 37 | 4.9 | 103 |
| Non-trial convictions total | 202,234 | 53 | 4.6 | 62 |
| Cases with initial plea of guilty | 62,255 | 31 | 2.0 | 1 |
| Cases with plea change to guilty | 139,979 | 69 | 5.7 | 103 |
| Preliminary inquiry | | | | |
| Cases with a preliminary inquiry | 21,245 | 6 | 8.1 | 233 |
| Cases without a preliminary inquiry | 357,341 | 94 | 4.6 | 77 |
| Bench warrants | | | | |
| Cases with a bench warrant | 41,875 | 11 | 7.5 | 253 |
| Cases without a bench warrant | 336,711 | 89 | 4.4 | 70 |

Notes: The type of procedure was not known in 66,478 (18%) of cases heard in adult criminal courts.

Data do not include New Brunswick, Manitoba, British Columbia and Nunavut.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Adult Criminal Court Survey.

Summary versus indictable offences

Summary conviction cases are the least serious type of case heard in court and the most frequently occurring case type.⁶ Summary cases are afforded fewer procedural options in court, which reduces the number of appearances required to reach completion. In 1999/00, summary conviction cases required an average of 4.6 appearances to be completed, compared to an average of 6.1 appearances for indictable offences.

Indictable cases are more serious than summary conviction cases, and offer the potential of much longer sentences.⁷ For this type of case, the accused is permitted to elect the mode of trial (i.e., provincial/territorial court, superior court judge alone, or superior court with judge and jury, for certain offences), and the option of a preliminary inquiry is available.

Given that procedures related to indictable cases are more extensive, these cases can be expected to require the most time to resolve. In 1999/00, indictable cases had a median elapsed time of 125 days and comprised 19% of cases with a known procedure.⁸ Conversely, summary conviction cases had a median elapsed time of 78 days, and accounted for 81% of cases heard (See **Figure 2**).

Cases with preliminary inquiries take three times longer to complete

The preliminary inquiry process, an option only for more serious offences, grants a hearing to determine whether the evidence accumulated by the Crown is sufficient for trial in the higher court. This procedure significantly increases case processing times.

In 1999/00, there were far fewer cases with a preliminary inquiry (6%) than there were without one (94%). Cases with a preliminary inquiry had a median elapsed time from first to last court appearance of 233 days, whereas those cases without a preliminary inquiry had a median of 77 days to reach completion. Contributing to the difference between the median elapsed times for these cases are additional appearances at the Superior Court level, where the defense often selects the option of re-electing back to provincial court, resulting in additional months of pre-trial process (see **Box 3**).

The type of case being heard by the court is important because some of the more serious offences have the highest proportion of preliminary inquiries. In 1999/00, every offence category had some cases with a preliminary inquiry, and seven of the ten offences with the largest proportion of preliminary inquiries were for *Crimes Against the Person* (See **Table 3**).

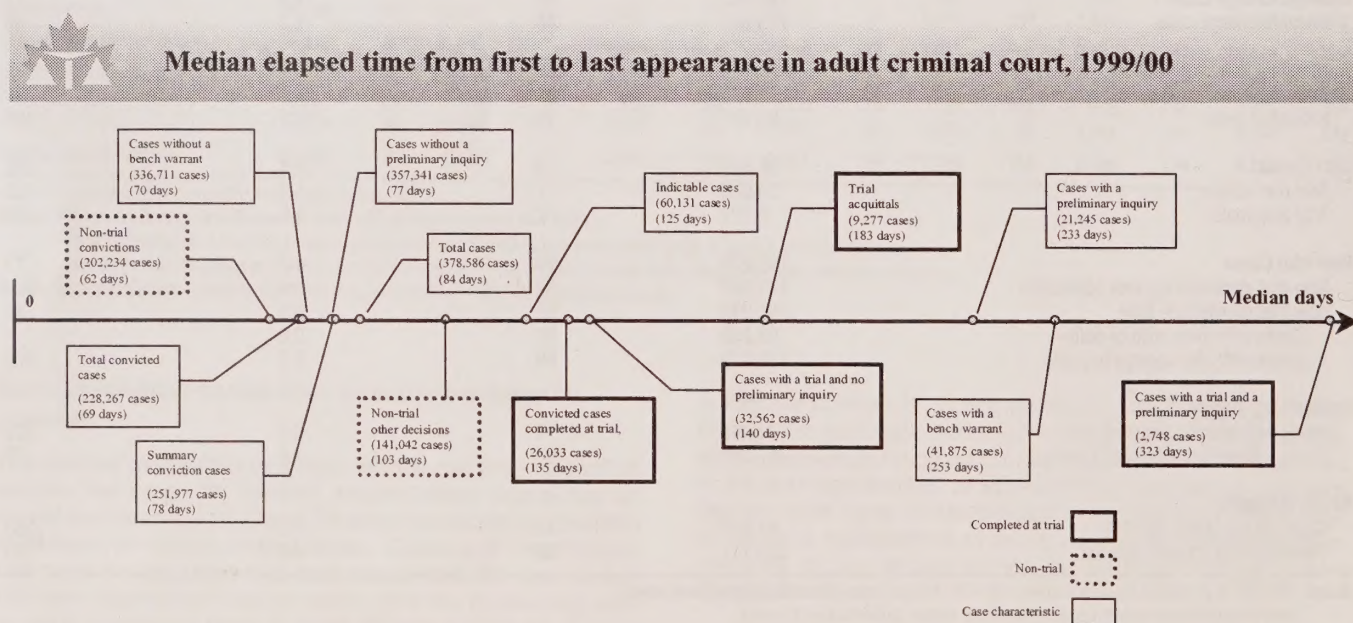
During the reference year, the addition of a preliminary inquiry resulted in much longer elapsed times for most offences. While the most common offence types with a preliminary inquiry took over 8 months to complete, the longest elapsed time was over 13 months (401 days) for drug trafficking. In contrast, the longest median elapsed time for cases without a preliminary

⁶ Summary conviction cases include cases defined as summary, and hybrid cases that proceed by way of summary conviction.

⁷ Indictable cases include cases defined as indictable, and hybrid cases that proceed by way of indictment.

⁸ Analysis of case procedure (i.e., summary and indictable) excludes cases where the procedure was unknown. In 1999/00 the type of procedure was not reported in 18% of cases completed in adult criminal court.

Figure 2



Source: Adult Criminal Court Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada

Scale: 1mm=1.75day

Box 3 – Superior Court cases not a significant factor in overall median case elapsed time

In 1999/00, the addition of Superior Court data from Alberta and the Yukon added 0.4% to the total caseload reported by the ACCS. There were 1,351 cases added to the total cases completed in adult criminal court, with no discernible change to the overall median case elapsed time in 1999/00. The median case elapsed time was 84 days for cases completed in provincial/territorial criminal court, and was unchanged with the inclusion of cases completed in Superior Court.

inquiry was just over 6 months (189 days for sexual assault) (See Figure 3).

Plea changes add significantly to elapsed times

In the majority of all convicted cases (89%) in 1999/00, a guilty plea was the final plea entered in the case. The median time to process convicted cases with a guilty plea was 62 days. Since there is no need to conduct a trial to hear evidence against the accused, these cases can be completed more promptly.

Table 3

Median elapsed time for cases with and without a preliminary inquiry Nine provinces and territories in Canada, 1999/00

| Offence group | Cases with a preliminary | | | Cases without a preliminary | | |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------|---------------|------------|-----------------------------|---------------|------------|
| | # | % total cases | median | # | % total cases | median |
| Total Offences | 21,245 | 6 | 233 | 357,341 | 94 | 77 |
| Criminal Code Total | 17,458 | 5 | 225 | 316,956 | 95 | 81 |
| Crimes Against the Person | 6,953 | 9 | 224 | 70,488 | 91 | 118 |
| Homicide and related | 174 | 42 | 258 | 245 | 58 | 121 |
| Attempted murder | 125 | 38 | 176 | 200 | 62 | 113 |
| Robbery | 1,418 | 32 | 223 | 3,017 | 68 | 93 |
| Kidnapping | 52 | 19 | 266 | 223 | 81 | 98 |
| Sexual assault | 1,326 | 25 | 294 | 4,062 | 75 | 189 |
| Sexual abuse | 307 | 24 | 364 | 969 | 76 | 171 |
| Major assault | 2,183 | 10 | 217 | 18,835 | 90 | 127 |
| Abduction | 15 | 12 | 176 | 110 | 88 | 124 |
| Common assault | 1,353 | 3 | 160 | 42,827 | 97 | 109 |
| Crimes Against Property | 6,452 | 7 | 226 | 88,255 | 93 | 76 |
| Break and enter | 2,667 | 21 | 184 | 10,052 | 79 | 67 |
| Arson | 197 | 34 | 302 | 378 | 66 | 94 |
| Fraud | 1,447 | 7 | 305 | 18,352 | 93 | 105 |
| Possess stolen property | 856 | 7 | 252 | 12,076 | 93 | 91 |
| Theft | 1,070 | 3 | 217 | 36,391 | 97 | 59 |
| Property damage/mischief | 215 | 2 | 182 | 11,006 | 98 | 83 |
| Other Criminal Code Violations | 3,459 | 3 | 210 | 105,554 | 97 | 52 |
| Weapons | 687 | 10 | 231 | 6,532 | 90 | 98 |
| Administration of justice | 442 | 1 | 137 | 39,933 | 99 | 26 |
| Public order offences | 127 | 1 | 212 | 8,748 | 99 | 64 |
| Morals-sexual | 103 | 2 | 304 | 4,698 | 98 | 100 |
| Gaming | 5 | 1 | 155 | 883 | 99 | 173 |
| Unspecified Criminal Code | 2,095 | 4 | 213 | 44,760 | 96 | 63 |
| Traffic | 594 | 1 | 306 | 52,659 | 99 | 97 |
| Criminal Code traffic | 223 | 3 | 315 | 7,287 | 97 | 125 |
| Impaired driving | 371 | 1 | 300 | 45,372 | 99 | 91 |
| Other Federal Statute Total | 3,787 | 9 | 281 | 40,385 | 91 | 56 |
| Drug Related Offences | 1,271 | 6 | 397 | 20,187 | 94 | 77 |
| Drug trafficking | 1,153 | 15 | 401 | 6,589 | 85 | 146 |
| Drug possession | 118 | 1 | 372 | 13,598 | 99 | 56 |
| Other Federal Statutes | 2,516 | 11 | 224 | 20,198 | 89 | 28 |

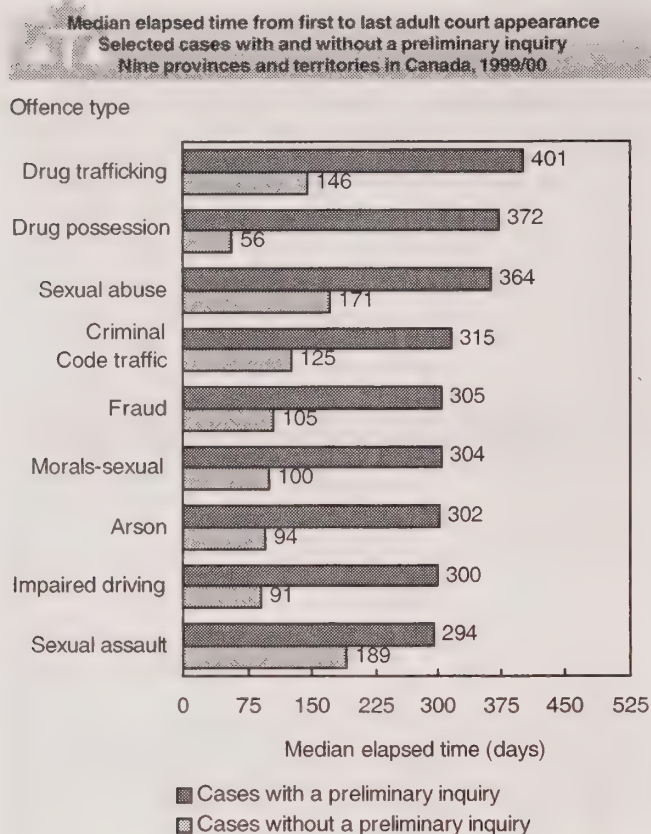
Data do not include New Brunswick, Manitoba, British Columbia and Nunavut.

With the introduction of new drug legislation, some drug offences have been coded to the "Other Federal Statutes" category.

This inflates the OFS group and undercounts drug offences. This will be corrected with changes to data collection programs.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Adult Criminal Court Survey.

Figure 3



Notes: Includes offences with the longest median elapsed times for cases with a preliminary inquiry. Combined, these offences represent 28% of the cases heard in adult criminal court. Data do not include New Brunswick, Manitoba, British Columbia and Nunavut.

Source: Adult Criminal Court Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

In 1999/00, convicted cases with an initial plea of guilty (i.e., no plea changes) accounted for almost one-third (31%) of convicted cases with a guilty plea. Convicted cases of this type had a median case elapsed time of a single appearance, and one-quarter (24%) required more than two appearances to reach completion.

The plea of record at the time of the court's decision is not always the first plea entered by the accused. In 1999/00, 69% of convictions with a guilty plea reached completion following a plea change to guilty. These cases had a higher average number of appearances and a longer median case processing time than convictions with an initial plea of guilty (See **Table 2**). In addition, 82% of convictions with a plea change to guilty required more than two appearances to reach completion.

Trial cases require almost twice as much time to complete as Non-Trial cases

The need to conduct a trial influences the processing time in court. In cases with a trial, the guilt or innocence of the accused is determined based on the presentation of evidence and the testimony of witnesses, and as a result, these cases tend to

have more court appearances and longer median case elapsed times.⁹ Trial cases constituted 9% of cases in 1999/00, compared to cases which were convicted with a guilty plea (53%), or otherwise terminated by the court without a trial (37%).

In 1999/00, the median processing time for cases decided through a trial process was 150 days. In contrast, non-trial cases required 77 days to complete. Of the two types of trial cases, convictions had a median processing time of 135 days, while acquittals required 183 days (See **Table 2**).

Bench Warrants have the largest impact on elapsed time

Bench warrants (i.e., arrest warrants) are usually issued when an individual fails to attend court, creating a situation where the court is simply unable to proceed with the case. Because it can often take a considerable amount of time to find and re-apprehend the accused, such cases can experience extensive processing delays that are entirely outside the control of the courts.

In the 1999/00 fiscal year, 11% of completed cases had a bench warrant. Almost half (45%) of all cases with a bench warrant were processed within 32 weeks, 20% took between 32 and 52 weeks, and more than one-third (35%) required more than one year to be completed. Conversely, most cases without a warrant (83%) were processed within 32 weeks, 11% reached completion between 32 and 52 weeks, and 6% requiring more than one year to process.

During the reference year, cases with a bench warrant had a median processing time of 253 days, compared to 70 days for cases without a bench warrant. As such, the addition of a bench warrant added at least 6 months to the median case processing time of most cases (See **Figure 4**).

Some offences have a higher proportion of bench warrants, including *Morals-sexual* (primarily soliciting), *Theft*, and *Fraud* (See **Table 4**).

Fourteen percent of cases took more than ten months to resolve

The right to be tried in a reasonable time is guaranteed under the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms*.¹⁰ The determination of what is reasonable is not defined in the *Charter*, but this issue has been examined by the Supreme Court of Canada in a number of rulings since the *Charter* was proclaimed in force in 1982. Notable rulings among these cases are *R. v. Askov* (1990) and *R. v. Morin* (1992).

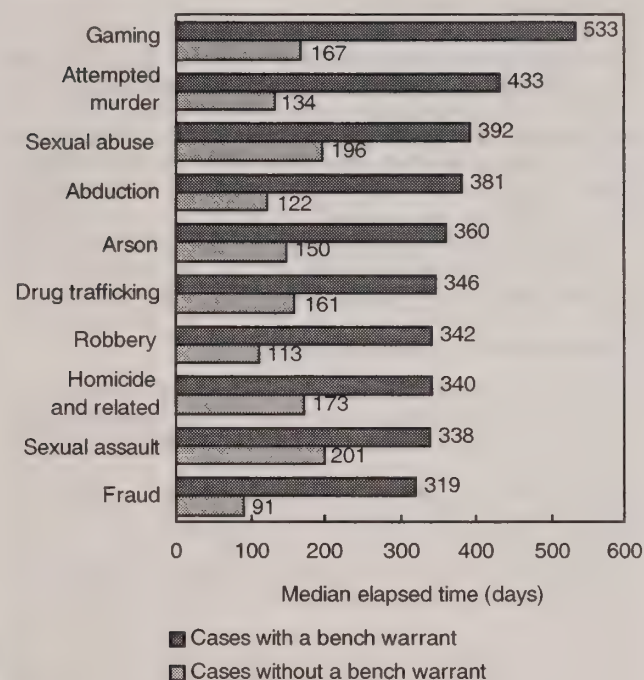
⁹ Trial cases have a final decision of acquitted or guilty, where the conviction is not the result of a guilty plea. Non-trial cases do not require the court to hear witnesses or evidence, and therefore include convicted cases with a guilty plea, and decisions by the court that result in the case being stayed, withdrawn, dismissed or discharged. Non-trial cases also include other court decisions, such as committal for trial in Superior Court, re-election to provincial/territorial court, and other decisions that do not result in a conviction or acquittal of the accused.

¹⁰ The Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, section 11(b).

Figure 4

Median elapsed time from first to last adult court appearance Selected cases with and without a bench warrant Nine provinces and territories in Canada, 1999/00

Offence type



Notes: Includes offences with the longest median elapsed times for cases with a bench warrant. Combined, these offences represent 11% of the cases heard in adult criminal court. Data do not include New Brunswick, Manitoba, British Columbia and Nunavut.

Source: Adult Criminal Court Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

Table 4

Adult cases with the largest proportion of bench warrants Nine provinces and territories in Canada, 1999/00

| Offence Group | Proportion of cases with a bench warrant | Proportion of cases without a bench warrant |
|--------------------------|--|---|
| Morals - sexual | 17.6 | 82.4 |
| Theft | 17.1 | 82.9 |
| Fraud | 16.8 | 83.2 |
| Posses stolen property | 15.7 | 84.3 |
| Public order offences | 14.9 | 85.1 |
| Break and enter | 14.0 | 86.0 |
| Property damage/mischief | 13.8 | 86.2 |
| Drug possession | 12.3 | 87.7 |

Notes: Data do not include New Brunswick, Manitoba, British Columbia and Nunavut.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Adult Criminal Court Survey.

In *R. v. Askov* (1990), the Supreme Court identified four factors that must be considered when determining if a delay has been reasonable. These factors are the length of the delay, the explanation for the delay, waiver of the delay by the accused, and any prejudice to the accused. These issues were clarified further by the Supreme Court, in its ruling in *R. v. Morin* (1992), when the scope of the guideline was expanded to include items such as the inherent time requirements of the case, actions of both the defence and the prosecution, and availability of institutional resources. In short, the court indicated that some delays in case processing may not be unreasonable, but the reasons behind the delays and the circumstances surrounding cases were very important in assessing whether delays were problematic.¹¹

To better understand the nature of court processing time and what is reasonable in adult criminal courts, this section examines the characteristics of those cases with an elapsed time greater than the ten-month administrative guideline established by the Supreme Court. While it is not possible to examine all relevant factors using ACCS data, it is possible to examine some accused and defense actions that have been shown to contribute to longer case elapsed times. As discussed earlier, the existence of bench warrants, the use of preliminary inquiries, plea changes by the accused, the need for a trial, and the requirement in some cases to have numerous court appearances, can all significantly affect case processing times.

In 1999/00, 51,688 cases (14% of all cases) had an elapsed time from the first to last court appearance of more than 300 days (ten months). However, as indicated in **Figure 5**, most of these cases possessed one or more attributes shown earlier to be related to longer case elapsed times. Furthermore, some of these characteristics reflect the actions of the accused, and may be considered by the court in assessing if the processing time is unreasonable.

More than one-third (35%) of all cases requiring more than ten months to process had a bench warrant. In such cases, the court was unable to proceed until the accused was apprehended and a new trial date set. The accused's decision to enter plea and later change that plea occurred in 54% of cases taking longer than ten months. Earlier analysis indicates that the accused's delay in choosing the final plea added 41 days to the median processing time of convicted cases.

Sixteen percent of cases requiring more than ten months had a preliminary inquiry. These cases are known to be associated with longer court processing times as a result of appearances to examine evidence before transferring cases to a higher court, and because of the movement of these cases between provincial/territorial and superior court.

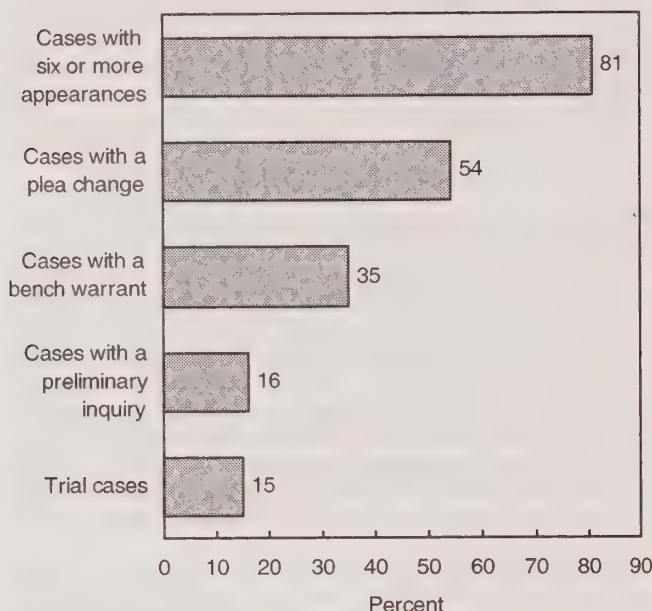
In the *R. v. Morin* ruling, the Supreme Court suggested that an additional six to eight months of processing time was appropriate in cases committed to trial. Fifteen percent of cases requiring at least ten months to conclude involved a trial, and 4% had a case processing time that exceeded the 18-month guideline.

¹¹ In *R. v. Morin*, the Supreme Court of Canada established an administrative guideline of 8 to 10 months for acceptable institutional delay for matters heard in provincial/territorial court, and an additional 6 to 8 months following a committal for trial.

Figure 5

Adult cases taking longer than ten months to reach completion
Cases by type of processing characteristic
Nine provinces and territories in Canada, 1999/00

Processing characteristic



Notes: The processing characteristics presented are not mutually exclusive and will not total 100%.

Data do not include New Brunswick, Manitoba, British Columbia and Nunavut.

Source: Adult Criminal Court Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

Almost all cases (81%) with elapsed times exceeding ten months had six or more appearances. This indicates that the court was active in hearing the matter, but that due to the nature of the case (e.g. case complexity, seriousness of the case, or the actions of the accused or Crown) a significant number of hearings were needed to resolve the matter.

Finally, 4% of cases with an elapsed time of greater than ten months did not display any of the above characteristics shown to prolong case processing time. However, this does not necessarily indicate unreasonable case processing time, only that the limited number of variables available from the ACCS were unable to identify a specific delay characteristic.

CASE PROCESSING TRENDS IN ADULT COURTS

Number of cases falling while court workload increases

The actual number of charges and cases processed has often been used as a broad indicator of the demand being placed on court resources. In 1999/00, adult criminal courts in the nine participating jurisdictions processed 378,586 cases

involving 811,382 charges. This represents a 4% decline in cases processed over the previous year, and a drop of 13% since 1995/96. The decline in prosecuted cases reflects the declining number of offences reported to police.¹² Over the period 1995 to 1999, there was a 11% drop in the number of charges laid by police, in the same provinces and territories that report to the ACCS.

However, a better overall indicator of court activity is the number of court appearances because it relates precisely to the activity consuming the most court resources. In short, the court resources associated with a case or charge are directly related to the number of court appearances needed to dispose of the matter. In spite of a 4% decrease in cases, there has been a 14% increase in the average number of case appearances (i.e., from 4.2 appearances in 1995/96, to 4.8 appearances in 1999/00), and a 3% increase in the overall number of appearances since 1995/96.

Case elapsed times increasing

Because case elapsed times are directly related to the number of court appearances, the trend toward more case appearances has had an impact on the time required to process cases in adult criminal courts. Since 1995/96 there has been a 9% increase in the overall median elapsed time from first to last appearance in court, growing from 77 to 84 days.

Another way of looking at elapsed times is to examine the changes in the distribution of cases across the different elapsed time categories. For example, there has been a slow and steady increase in the proportion of cases in each of the longest elapsed time categories (i.e., 32 weeks to 52 weeks, and more than 52 weeks) since 1995/96. The proportion of cases taking more than 52 weeks increased from 8% to 10%, and the proportion of cases requiring 32 weeks to 52 weeks increased from 11% to 12% over the past 5 years (See Table 5).

Cases have become more complex since 1995/96

Although the number of cases being processed has declined since 1995/96, the average number of charges per case has increased 5%, rising from 2.04 in 1995/96 to 2.14 in 1999/00. Overall, the proportion of multiple-charge cases has increased from 45% to 48% of all cases, and the proportion of cases with three or more charges has increased from 18% to 21% of cases over the same period. Further, the median processing time for these more complex cases increased 1%, from 97 to 98 days since 1995/96.

Finally, cases involving multiple charges require a higher mean number of appearances to be resolved, than cases involving a single charge. Since 1995/96, the average number of case-appearances per multiple-charge case has been approximately 20% higher than the average for single-charge cases. In 1999/00, multiple-charge cases required an average of 5.2 appearances to be resolved, compared to 4.4 for single-charge cases.

¹² See the methodology section for more details on the comparisons between the ACCS and the Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Survey.

Table 5

Elapsed time for cases in adult criminal court
Selected provinces and territories in Canada, 1995/96 to 1999/00

| Year | Total cases | Elapsed time (days) | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---------|-------------|---------------------|----|---------------|----|----------------|----|-----------------|----|-----------------|----|-----------|----|
| | | One day | | up to 4 weeks | | >4 to 16 weeks | | >16 to 32 weeks | | >32 to 52 weeks | | >52 weeks | |
| | | # | % | # | % | # | % | # | % | # | % | # | % |
| 1995/96 | 435,569 | 88,918 | 20 | 63,014 | 14 | 108,317 | 25 | 93,173 | 21 | 47,880 | 11 | 34,267 | 8 |
| 1996/97 | 417,393 | 84,910 | 20 | 60,270 | 14 | 99,928 | 24 | 86,679 | 21 | 48,436 | 12 | 37,170 | 9 |
| 1997/98 | 411,576 | 79,634 | 19 | 60,102 | 15 | 95,339 | 23 | 85,169 | 21 | 49,986 | 12 | 41,346 | 10 |
| 1998/99 | 394,884 | 76,109 | 19 | 57,036 | 14 | 92,545 | 23 | 83,943 | 21 | 47,434 | 12 | 37,817 | 10 |
| 1999/00 | 378,586 | 69,658 | 18 | 55,845 | 15 | 90,031 | 24 | 81,252 | 21 | 45,816 | 12 | 35,984 | 10 |

Notes: Data do not include New Brunswick, Manitoba, British Columbia and Nunavut for all years and Northwest Territories for 1996/97.

Data include Superior Court cases for Alberta in 1998/99, and Alberta and Yukon in 1999/00.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Adult Criminal Court Survey.

CASE PROCESSING IN YOUTH COURTS

In 1999/00, 102,000 cases were processed in the youth courts of Canada.¹³ Five offences accounted for a large proportion (58%) of the total caseload. These were theft under \$5,000, failure to comply with a disposition under the *Young Offenders Act* (YOA), failure to appear in court, breaking and entering, and minor assault.

Almost one-half of all youth cases are processed in two months or less

In 1999/00, almost one-half of all youth cases (48%) were processed in two months or less (from the time of the youth's first court appearance to the date of decision or sentencing). Indeed, 16% of youth cases were completed at the first court appearance, one-third (33%) required between two months and six months, and 19% took longer than six months (5% took one year or longer).

In 1999/00, the median elapsed time for all youth cases was 63 days. However, the type of offence in a case has a significant impact on the amount of time needed for completion. Youth cases involving *Crimes against the person* had by far the longest median elapsed time (104 days), followed by *Crimes against property* cases (64 days), *Drug-related offence* cases (56 days), and *Other Criminal Code* cases (48 days) (See **Table 6**). Within the *Crimes against the person* category, cases with the longest median case elapsed times to reach completion included rape/indecent assault (315 days), sexual assault with a weapon (164 days) and sexual assault (160 days). Within the *Crimes against property* category, the highest median elapsed time recorded was

¹³ The start date case definition used by the YCS aggregates charges into cases differently than the end date case definition used by the ACCS. This difference in counting procedures produces different case counts and as a result, no direct comparisons should be made between ACCS and YCS case elapsed time data.

Table 6

Cases completed in youth court, 1995/96 to 1999/00
Median elapsed time in days

| | Fiscal year | | | | |
|---------------------------|-------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| | 1995/96 | 1996/97 | 1997/98 | 1998/99 | 1999/00 |
| Total | 69 | 58 | 61 | 63 | 63 |
| Crimes against the person | 110 | 99 | 105 | 105 | 104 |
| Crimes against property | 63 | 55 | 57 | 63 | 64 |
| Other Criminal Code | 52 | 44 | 41 | 43 | 48 |
| Drug-related offences | 69 | 63 | 62 | 56 | 56 |
| Young Offenders Act | 49 | 39 | 42 | 41 | 42 |
| Other federal statutes | 19 | 7 | 1 | 1 | 1 |

Notes: The majority of Cases under the *Young Offenders Act* are for failure to comply with a disposition.

Data do not include Nunavut.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Youth Court Survey.

105 days for arson followed by 78 days for breaking and entering. The median elapsed time was low for other federal statute offences (1 day), and for administrative offences such as unlawfully at large (4 days), escape custody (7 days) and breach of recognisance (16 days).

Multiple-charge cases in youth court

In 1999/00, 57% of youth court cases involved only one charge, 24% had two charges, 9% three charges, and 11% had more than three charges. The median elapsed time for single-charge cases in youth court was 63 days, compared to 69 days for multiple-charge cases.

Indictable offences take almost one month longer to reach completion

The main difference between summary and indictable offences in youth court is more severe sentencing implications for indictable offences. With few exceptions, youth courts process summary and indictable offences with a common set of procedures. For example, young offenders charged with indictable offences are not given the option of electing trial in a higher court, nor do they have the option of a preliminary inquiry, which often accompanies such an election in adult court.

In 1999/00, indictable cases had a median elapsed time of 90 days and comprised 28% of cases with a known procedure¹⁴ (i.e., cases that could be classified as being either summary conviction cases or indictable cases). Conversely, summary conviction cases had a median elapsed time of 63 days, and accounted for 72% of youth cases.

Acquittals have the longest elapsed times

Cases dismissed, cases transferred to adult court and cases resulting in a verdict of not guilty took the longest to process in youth courts. Sixty-five percent of cases dismissed, 58% of cases transferred to adult court and 52% of cases resulting in a verdict of not guilty required more than four months to proceed from the first court appearance to case completion in youth court. Overall, 31% of all cases took more than four months to process, while 27% of cases resulting in a guilty verdict spent longer than 4 months in youth court.

Trial cases require almost one month more time to complete than Non-Trial cases

The longest cases in youth court were those where the determination of guilt or innocence of the accused was based on the presentation of evidence and the testimony of witnesses.¹⁵ These trial cases constituted 31% of youth court cases in 1999/00, compared to 69% of cases which were convicted with a guilty plea, or otherwise terminated by the court without a trial.¹⁶ In 1999/00, the median processing time for cases decided through a trial process was 77 days. In contrast, non-trial cases required 54 days to complete. Within trial cases, convictions had a median processing time of 73 days, while acquittals required 109 days.

CASE PROCESSING TRENDS IN YOUTH COURT

In 1999/00, 102,000 cases were processed in the youth courts of Canada. This represents a 4% decrease from the previous year and a decrease of 8% from 1995/96. It also represents a 10% decrease in the number of cases per 10,000 youths, which has dropped from 465 cases to 417 cases since 1995/96. The number of *Crimes against property* cases decreased annually, dropping 22% between 1995/96 and 1999/00, while the number *Crimes against the person* cases dropped 1% over the same period.

METHODOLOGY

The purpose of the Adult Criminal Court Survey (ACCS) is to provide a national database of statistical information on the processing of cases through the adult criminal court system. The survey consists of a census of *Criminal Code* and other federal statute charges dealt with in provincial/territorial adult criminal courts.

Coverage

Some limitations on coverage of the survey should be noted. Three provinces and one territory (New Brunswick, Manitoba and British Columbia and Nunavut) are not included in the survey at this time. The data do not include Northwest Territories for 1996/97 and include three fiscal quarters of data for the territory in 1999/00. Also, some court locations in Quebec are not included. Information from Quebec's 140 municipal courts (which account for approximately 20% of federal statute charges in that province) are not yet collected. Finally, with the exception of Alberta and the Yukon, data are not provided from Superior Courts.

The absence of data from all but two Superior Court jurisdictions may result in a slight underestimation of the number of court appearances and overall case elapsed times occurring across Canada. The reason for this is that some of the most serious cases will be processed in Superior Courts. While these limitations are important, they have existed for several years, therefore, it is possible to make comparisons from one year to another using the ACCS.

¹⁴ The analysis of type of procedure excludes cases where the type of procedure was unknown. In 1999/00, the type of procedure was not reported in 14% of the cases completed in youth courts in the twelve jurisdictions used in this analysis. Data for Quebec were excluded from this analysis.

¹⁵ Trial cases have a final decision of acquitted or guilty, where the conviction is not the result of a guilty plea. Non-trial cases do not require the court to hear witnesses or evidence, and therefore include convicted cases with a guilty plea, and decisions by the court that result in the case being stayed, withdrawn, dismissed or discharged. Non-trial cases also include other court decisions, such as transferred to adult court, stay of proceedings, and withdrawn.

¹⁶ Trial versus non-trial elapsed time analysis excludes data from Ontario.

ACCS Counting Procedures

The basic unit of count for the Adult Criminal Court Survey is a case. A case is one or more charges against an accused person or corporation, where the charges receive a final disposition on the same date. Charges are linked to a case on the basis of the accused identifier and the date of the last court appearance. The survey counts more than one case against an individual when the charges being heard are completed on different days. Refer to the publication *Adult Criminal Court Data Tables, 1999/00* for more information on data collection, editing and compilation for this survey.

Factors influencing the number of charges laid

Charging policies are determined individually by provinces and territories. In British Columbia, Quebec and New Brunswick for example, the police must obtain the approval of the Crown prosecutor before a charge is laid. However, British Columbia and New Brunswick do not provide data to the ACCS at this time. In other provinces and territories, the police have exclusive responsibility for the laying of a charge. This variability may affect the number and nature of charges laid across the country.

Youth Court Survey

The Youth Court Survey (YCS) is a census of *Criminal Code* and other federal statute offences heard in youth court for persons aged 12 to 17 (up to the 18th birthday) at the time of the offence. The YCS follows a similar pattern as the ACCS in defining cases. Though respondents and the Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics (CCJS) make every effort to ensure complete survey coverage, slight under-coverage may occur in some jurisdictions. Refer to the publication *Youth Court Data Tables, 1999/00* for more information on data collection, editing and compilation for this survey.

YCS Counting Procedures

The basic unit of count for the Youth Court Survey is a case, but the counting procedures used by the YCS are different than those employed by the ACCS. A case for the YCS is defined as one or more charges against an individual (i.e., aged 12 to 17) that have the same start date. Charges are

linked to a case on the basis of the accused identifier and the date of the first court appearance. The survey counts more than one case against an individual when the charges being heard are started on different days.

Comparisons with other sectors of the justice system

Policing:

The Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics conducts the Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) survey. This survey collects data on the crimes reported to the police. Counts from the UCR survey for offences cleared by charge are not comparable to ACCS figures for charges disposed of. There are many reasons for this. In part, it is the result of scoring rules used by the UCR survey. The UCR survey counts violent offences in terms of the number of victims in the incident; non-violent offences are counted in terms of the number of separate incidents. Furthermore, the UCR figures include offences involving youths, while the ACCS case counts include only the very few youth offences that have been transferred to adult court.

Corrections:

The number of cases sentenced to prison, as reported by the ACCS, will differ from the number of actual admissions to correctional facilities. The CCJS conducts the Adult Correctional Services (ACS) Survey, which measures, among other things, the number of persons admitted to correctional facilities in Canada. The number of cases with prison sentences (ACCS) and the number of admissions to correctional facilities (ACS) differ because the number of sentenced admissions reported by the Adult Correctional Services survey includes persons sentenced to prison in Superior Courts as well as admissions resulting from fine defaults. In 1999/00, only two jurisdictions, Alberta and the Yukon, reported Superior Court data to the Adult Criminal Court Survey, and sentences to prison for reason of fine defaults are not collected by the survey. Also, any accused sentenced to time-served prior to a sentence commencing would be counted differently in each survey. The ACCS does not have data on the duration of prison time already served, and the adult correctional data identifies these sentences as a remand prior to the completion of the trial.

Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics

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ADULT CRIMINAL COURT STATISTICS, 2000/01

by Mikhail Thomas¹

Highlights

- In the fiscal year 2000/01, adult criminal courts in eight provinces and territories (not including New Brunswick, Manitoba, British Columbia, the Northwest Territories, and Nunavut) processed 375,466 cases involving 816,449 charges, a 1% decrease from the previous year. Since 1996/97, total cases have declined by 10% in these jurisdictions.
- *Crimes Against the Person* (e.g., homicide, robbery, assaults) accounted for 21% of the cases heard in 2000/01, *Crimes Against Property* (e.g., break and enter, theft, fraud) accounted for 24%, and *Other Criminal Code Violations* (e.g., administration of justice and weapons) accounted for 30%. *Criminal Code Traffic* comprised 13% of all cases. The remaining 12% of cases dealt with *Other Federal Statutes* (e.g., Controlled Drugs and Substances Act, Firearms Act, Income Tax Act).
- The two offences most frequently heard in court were common assault (12%) and impaired driving (12%).
- Since 1996/97, the distribution of cases across the offence categories has remained relatively stable. Two exceptions are impaired driving, which has decreased from 15% to 12% of total cases, and administration of justice (e.g., failure to appear in court, and failure to comply with a probation order) which has increased from 9% to 11%.
- Of total cases in 2000/01, 32% were resolved within a month, and less than half (44%) took between one and eight months to complete. It took between eight months and one year to complete 13% of cases, and the elapsed time was more than one year in 11% of cases heard.
- The average number of charges per case has increased 5%, rising from 2.06 in 1996/97 to 2.17 in 2000/01. The proportion of cases with three or more charges has increased from 18% of all cases in 1996/97 to 21% in 2000/01.
- A conviction was recorded in 61% of the 375,466 cases heard in court in 2000/01. The proportion of cases resulting in a conviction has varied by three percentage points over the past five years.
- A term of probation was the most frequently imposed sanction (44% of convicted cases). A fine was imposed in 37% of cases, and a term of imprisonment in 35% of cases.
- The proportion of cases sentenced to prison varies across the country. In 2000/2001, the highest incarceration rate was in Prince Edward Island, where 59% of convicted cases resulted in a term of imprisonment, while the lowest incarceration rate was in Saskatchewan, where prison was imposed in 22% of cases.
- The median amount of fine, which was \$300 between 1996/97 and 1999/00, increased to \$400 in 2000/01.

¹ Analyst, Courts Program.



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INTRODUCTION

Courts are responsible for making a number of critical decisions about a criminal case. These decisions include the determination of whether the Crown has established the guilt of the accused beyond a reasonable doubt, and for those offenders found guilty (or who plead guilty), the court must determine the nature of the sentence that will be imposed.

This *Juristat* summarises trends from adult provincial/territorial criminal courts in the seven provincial and one territorial departments of justice (**Box 1**) which provided data to the Adult Criminal Court Survey (ACCS) for the 2000/01 fiscal year. In this *Juristat* information is presented on the characteristics of cases and accused persons, the number of appearances, conviction rates, sentencing trends and related issues.

Box 1

About the Survey

The analysis in this report is based on data from the Adult Criminal Court Survey. Data on disposed federal statute charges are collected by the Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics (CCJS) in collaboration with provincial and territorial government departments responsible for adult criminal courts.

The primary unit of analysis is the case, which is defined as one or more charges presented against an individual and disposed of in court on the same day. All case information that is used to define the case, is determined by the "most serious offence", as described in the methodology section. The individuals involved are persons 18 years or older at the time of the offence, companies, as well as youths who have been transferred to adult criminal court.

At the time of this report, adult criminal courts in seven provinces and one territory reported to the ACCS. Reporting jurisdictions include: Newfoundland and Labrador, Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, Quebec, Ontario, Saskatchewan, Alberta, and Yukon. In addition, in 2000/01 Prince Edward Island, Alberta and the Yukon reported Superior Court data to the ACCS. These eight jurisdictions represent approximately 80% of the national adult criminal court caseload. The information presented in this report covers only these eight participating jurisdictions. The remaining jurisdictions² (i.e., New Brunswick, Manitoba, and British Columbia and Nunavut) will be supplying data to the survey within the next few years.

OVERVIEW OF TRENDS

The number of cases heard in adult criminal court has declined, but the average number of charges per case has increased

In 2000/01, adult criminal courts in eight provinces and territories processed 375,466 cases involving 816,449 charges. The number of cases processed in 2000/01 represents a 1% decline for the same eight jurisdictions over the previous year, and a drop of 10% for the same eight jurisdictions since 1996/97.

The large majority of cases (88%) had a *Criminal Code* charge as the most serious offence in the case.³ *Crimes Against Property* accounted for 24%, and *Crimes Against the Person* accounted for a further 21% of the total number of cases (**Table 1**). *Criminal Code Traffic* comprised 13% of all cases, while the category *Other Criminal Code Violations* (which includes weapons offences and public order offences, among others) represented 30% of all cases. The remaining 12% of cases dealt with *Other Federal Statutes*.⁴ In 1996/97, *Crimes Against the Person* accounted for 20% of all cases, and *Crimes Against Property*, 27% of all cases.

² In 2000/01, the Northwest Territories did not participate in the survey. In 1999/00, data from the Northwest Territories (for the three fiscal quarters reported) accounted for 0.4% of the total caseload reported to the ACCS.

³ For statistical purposes, when a case has more than one charge, it is necessary to decide which charge will be used to represent the case. If the case includes a conviction, that charge will always be considered the most serious. The most serious offence in a case with multiple convictions is determined based on the type of convicted offences and the sentences imposed. See the methodology section for more details.

⁴ Other Federal Statutes refers to offences against Canadian federal statutes, such as the Customs Act, the Employment Insurance Act, Firearms Act, the Income Tax Act, and the Controlled Drugs and Substances Act. This offence category excludes Criminal Code offences.

The average number of charges per case has increased 5%, rising from 2.06 in 1996/97 to 2.17 in 2000/01. Multiple-charge cases⁵, which are more complex and often more serious, increased from 46% of all cases in 1996/97 to 48% in 2000/01. In 2000/01, 27% of all cases involved two charges and 21% had three or more charges.

Impaired driving and common assault are the most frequent offences

In 2000/01, the most frequently occurring offences were common assault⁶ (12%) and impaired driving (12%). Administration of justice offences, which are offences related to case processing (e.g., failure to appear in court, and failure to comply with a probation order), represented 11% of all cases, theft offences represented 10% of cases, while major assault comprised 6% of cases. Taken together, all forms of sexual assault and sexual abuse accounted for less than 2% of the caseload in adult criminal courts. Homicide, attempted murder, and kidnapping together accounted for 0.3% of total cases (Table 1).

Table 1

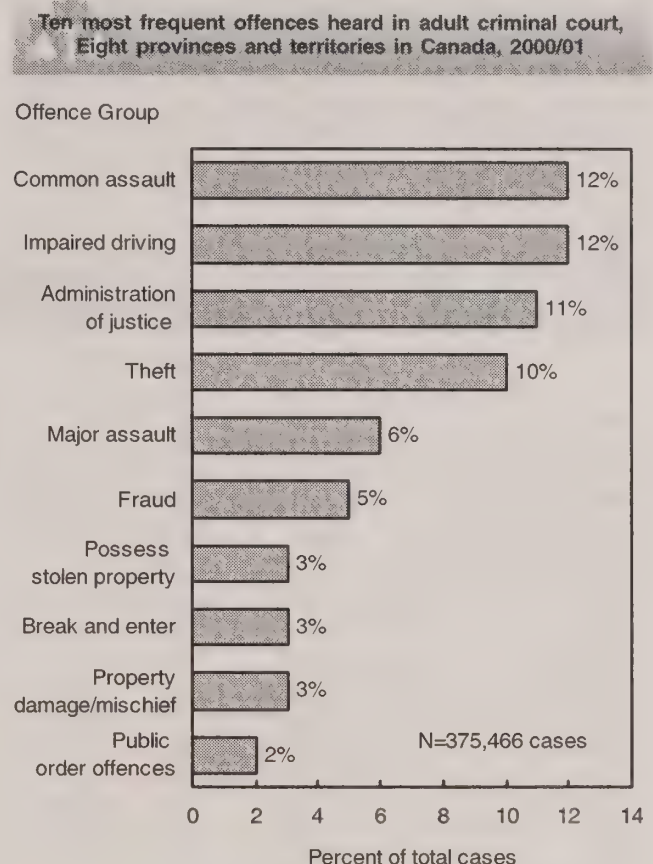
| Cases heard in adult criminal court, Eight provinces and territories in Canada, 2000/01 | | |
|--|----------------|--------------|
| Offence Group | Total Cases | % |
| Total Offences | 375,466 | 100.0 |
| Criminal Code Total | 331,667 | 88.3 |
| Crimes Against the Person | 78,146 | 20.8 |
| Homicide and related | 404 | 0.1 |
| Attempted murder | 277 | 0.1 |
| Robbery | 4,276 | 1.1 |
| Kidnapping | 363 | 0.1 |
| Sexual assault | 4,881 | 1.3 |
| Sexual abuse | 1,189 | 0.3 |
| Major assault | 21,332 | 5.7 |
| Abduction | 110 | 0 |
| Common assault | 45,314 | 12.1 |
| Crimes Against Property | 90,449 | 24.1 |
| Break and enter | 11,777 | 3.1 |
| Arson | 601 | 0.2 |
| Fraud | 19,018 | 5.1 |
| Possess stolen property | 12,008 | 3.2 |
| Theft | 35,719 | 9.5 |
| Property damage/mischief | 11,326 | 3.0 |
| Other Criminal Code Violations | 112,668 | 30.0 |
| Weapons | 7,256 | 1.9 |
| Administration of justice | 42,370 | 11.3 |
| Public order offences | 9,020 | 2.4 |
| Morals - sexual | 4,164 | 1.1 |
| Morals - gaming | 792 | 0.2 |
| Unspecified Criminal Code | 49,066 | 13.1 |
| Criminal Code Traffic | 50,404 | 13.4 |
| Other Criminal Code traffic | 7,187 | 1.9 |
| Impaired driving | 43,217 | 11.5 |
| Other Federal Statute Total | 43,799 | 11.7 |

Notes: Adult Criminal Court Survey data are not reported by New Brunswick, Manitoba, British Columbia, Northwest Territories, and Nunavut.

Source: Adult Criminal Court Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

Since 1996/97, the distribution of cases across the offence categories has remained relatively stable. The most notable exceptions include impaired driving, which has decreased from 15% to 12% of total cases, and administration of justice (e.g., failure to appear in court, and failure to comply with a probation order) which has increased from 9% to 11%. Figure 1 illustrates the distribution of cases for the most frequently occurring offences and offence categories.

Figure 1



Note: Adult Criminal Court Survey data are not reported by New Brunswick, Manitoba, British Columbia, Northwest Territories, and Nunavut.

Source: Adult Criminal Court Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

⁵ The classification of a case as single-charge or multiple-charge is based on the total number of charges heard in the case, not just those charges resulting in a conviction.

⁶ There are three levels of assault in the Criminal Code: (Assault Level 1, s. 266), (Assault Level II, s. 267), (Assault Level III, s. 268). Common assault (Assault Level 1, s. 266) is the least serious of the three types of assault in the Criminal Code. A common assault has been committed when an individual intentionally applies force or threatens to apply force to another person, without that person's consent. Major assault is an offence category that includes the higher levels of assault in the Criminal Code: assault with a weapon (Assault Level II, s. 267), aggravated assault (Assault Level III, s. 268), and other assaults (e.g., assaulting a police officer, and unlawfully causing bodily harm).

DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS OF PERSONS APPEARING IN COURT

Most adult criminal court cases involve males

Fully 83% of all cases at the adult criminal court level involved male accused, while 15% of cases involved a female accused. In 2000/01, less than 1% of the cases involved a company as the accused. In the remaining cases (less than 2%), the sex of the accused was not recorded.

Although males accounted for the majority of cases, the distribution varied by type of offence. For *Crimes Against the Person*, 85% of cases involved males, while males were involved in 78% of *Crimes Against Property*, and 86% of cases for *Criminal Code Traffic*. The few offences for which females accounted for significant percentages of cases included:

morals-sexual offences (43%, primarily soliciting), abduction (44%, mainly child related), fraud (28%), and theft (27%, including shoplifting).

Younger adults are over represented in court cases

Younger adults were over represented in court when comparing the age distribution of the offender to the age distribution of the adult population. In 2000/01, 18 to 24 year olds comprised 12% of the adult population, but accounted for 31% of all cases in adult criminal court.⁷ Offenders under 45 years of age accounted for 85% of the total cases heard in adult criminal court and 53% of the adult population. In contrast, persons 55 or older represented 28% of the adult population, but accounted for 5% of adult criminal court cases (**Table 2**).

⁷ Excludes 10,775 (2.9%) cases where age of the accused was unknown and 712 (0.2%) cases against companies.

Table 2

Cases by age of accused,
Eight provinces and territories in Canada, 2000/01

| Offence, Group | Total Cases | Age Group | | | | | | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|----------------|----------------|-------------|----------------|-------------|---------------|-------------|---------------|-------------|---------------|------------|
| | | 18 to 24 | | 25 to 34 | | 35 to 44 | | 45 to 54 | | 55 plus | |
| | | # | % | # | % | # | % | # | % | # | % |
| Total Offences | 363,979 | 111,334 | 30.6 | 106,966 | 29.4 | 92,315 | 25.4 | 36,950 | 10.2 | 16,414 | 4.5 |
| Criminal Code Total | 322,247 | 94,782 | 29.4 | 95,741 | 29.7 | 83,529 | 25.9 | 33,330 | 10.3 | 14,865 | 4.6 |
| Crimes Against the Person | 75,691 | 18,872 | 24.9 | 24,001 | 31.7 | 21,465 | 28.4 | 7,942 | 10.5 | 3,411 | 4.5 |
| Homicide and related | 347 | 108 | 31.1 | 99 | 28.5 | 68 | 19.6 | 42 | 12.1 | 30 | 8.6 |
| Attempted murder | 258 | 92 | 35.7 | 80 | 31.0 | 54 | 20.9 | 19 | 7.4 | 13 | 5.0 |
| Robbery | 4,177 | 1,926 | 46.1 | 1,271 | 30.4 | 749 | 17.9 | 196 | 4.7 | 35 | 0.8 |
| Kidnapping | 357 | 127 | 35.6 | 131 | 36.7 | 67 | 18.8 | 25 | 7.0 | 7 | 2.0 |
| Sexual assault | 4,770 | 847 | 17.8 | 1,393 | 29.2 | 1,369 | 28.7 | 675 | 14.2 | 486 | 10.2 |
| Sexual abuse | 1,166 | 184 | 15.8 | 263 | 22.6 | 364 | 31.2 | 196 | 16.8 | 159 | 13.6 |
| Major assault | 20,705 | 6,163 | 29.8 | 6,629 | 32.0 | 5,270 | 25.5 | 1,843 | 8.9 | 800 | 3.9 |
| Abduction | 103 | 15 | 14.6 | 36 | 35.0 | 43 | 41.7 | 8 | 7.8 | 1 | 1.0 |
| Common assault | 43,808 | 9,410 | 21.5 | 14,099 | 32.2 | 13,481 | 30.8 | 4,938 | 11.3 | 1,880 | 4.3 |
| Crimes Against Property | 88,559 | 33,233 | 37.5 | 25,210 | 28.5 | 19,883 | 22.5 | 7,211 | 8.1 | 3,022 | 3.4 |
| Break and enter | 11,604 | 5,888 | 50.7 | 3,227 | 27.8 | 1,958 | 16.9 | 429 | 3.7 | 102 | 0.9 |
| Arson | 589 | 237 | 40.2 | 144 | 24.4 | 123 | 20.9 | 63 | 10.7 | 22 | 3.7 |
| Fraud | 18,531 | 5,329 | 28.8 | 6,196 | 33.4 | 4,722 | 25.5 | 1,725 | 9.3 | 559 | 3.0 |
| Possess stolen property | 11,800 | 5,270 | 44.7 | 3,364 | 28.5 | 2,241 | 19.0 | 716 | 6.1 | 209 | 1.8 |
| Theft | 34,884 | 11,868 | 34.0 | 9,116 | 26.1 | 8,502 | 24.4 | 3,541 | 10.2 | 1,857 | 5.3 |
| Property damage/mischief | 11,151 | 4,641 | 41.6 | 3,163 | 28.4 | 2,337 | 21.0 | 737 | 6.6 | 273 | 2.4 |
| Other Criminal Code Violations | 107,878 | 33,032 | 30.6 | 32,956 | 30.5 | 27,371 | 25.4 | 10,298 | 9.5 | 4,221 | 3.9 |
| Weapons | 7,012 | 2,372 | 33.8 | 1,796 | 25.6 | 1,468 | 20.9 | 867 | 12.4 | 509 | 7.3 |
| Administration of justice | 41,830 | 14,352 | 34.3 | 12,995 | 31.1 | 10,061 | 24.1 | 3,349 | 8.0 | 1,073 | 2.6 |
| Public order offences | 8,901 | 3,431 | 38.5 | 2,839 | 31.9 | 1,819 | 20.4 | 602 | 6.8 | 210 | 2.4 |
| Morals - sexual | 4,102 | 727 | 17.7 | 1,479 | 36.1 | 1,200 | 29.3 | 466 | 11.4 | 230 | 5.6 |
| Morals - gaming | 697 | 46 | 6.6 | 155 | 22.2 | 183 | 26.3 | 166 | 23.8 | 147 | 21.1 |
| Unspecified Criminal Code | 45,336 | 12,104 | 26.7 | 13,692 | 30.2 | 12,640 | 27.9 | 4,848 | 10.7 | 2,052 | 4.5 |
| Criminal Code Traffic | 50,119 | 9,645 | 19.2 | 13,574 | 27.1 | 14,810 | 29.5 | 7,879 | 15.7 | 4,211 | 8.4 |
| Other Criminal Code traffic | 7,112 | 1,566 | 22.0 | 2,246 | 31.6 | 1,990 | 28.0 | 890 | 12.5 | 420 | 5.9 |
| Impaired driving | 43,007 | 8,079 | 18.8 | 11,328 | 26.3 | 12,820 | 29.8 | 6,989 | 16.3 | 3,791 | 8.8 |
| Other Federal Statute Total | 41,732 | 16,552 | 39.7 | 11,225 | 26.9 | 8,786 | 21.1 | 3,620 | 8.7 | 1,549 | 3.7 |

Notes: Due to rounding, percentages may not add to 100.

Age is the age of the accused at the time of the offence.

Excludes 10,775 (2.9%) cases where age of the accused was unknown and 712 (0.2%) cases against companies.

Age unknown includes accused under the age of 18 at the time of offence.

Adult Criminal Court Survey data are not reported by New Brunswick, Manitoba, British Columbia, Northwest Territories, and Nunavut.

Source: Adult Criminal Court Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

CASE PROCESSING

An offender's right to be brought to trial in a timely manner is a fundamental principle within the Canadian criminal justice system. Preparations for each case commence in the court registry with the scheduling of the first court appearance, and continue with further co-ordination of judicial resources throughout the criminal court process. There are a variety of factors, many of which are not under the direct control of the courts, that affect both case management and processing. Such factors include: the volume of cases being processed by a court; the complexity of cases; the types of offences being prosecuted; issues related to the co-ordination and availability of various participants within the criminal justice process; lawyers' decisions on the most appropriate course of action for their clients; and accused failing to appear in court.

Median elapsed time from first to last court appearance just over 4 months

The amount of time it takes to complete the processing of a case has always been an important issue for court administrators, but since the 1990 Supreme Court decision in *R. v. Askov*⁸, the case elapsed time issue is even more visible. In 2000/01, 17% of cases were dealt with at the first appearance. The median⁹ elapsed time from first to last appearance for cases with more than one appearance was slightly more than four months (124 days). Cases requiring more appearances took longer to complete. The median time for cases with four appearances was 103 days, and for cases with six or more appearances it was 243 days (Table 3).

Cases are taking more time to process

Between 1996/97 and 2000/01, the overall median elapsed time from first to last appearance in court for total cases increased 9% from 80 to 87 days. The median processing time for the least complex cases, those with a single charge, increased 22%, from 63 to 77 days, while the processing time for more complex cases (i.e., multiple-charge cases) was 98 days in both years.

Table 3

Median elapsed time by number of appearances, Eight provinces and territories in Canada, 2000/01

| Number of Appearances in the Case | Total Cases | Median Time (days) |
|-----------------------------------|----------------|--------------------|
| One Appearance | 64,688 | 0 |
| Two Appearances | 56,373 | 24 |
| Three Appearances | 51,221 | 63 |
| Four Appearances | 43,924 | 103 |
| Five Appearances | 34,966 | 139 |
| Six or more Appearances | 124,294 | 243 |
| TOTAL | 375,466 | 87 |

Notes: Zero (i.e., the case was completed in a single appearance).

The median represents the mid-point of a group of values when all the values are sorted by size.

Median elapsed time is measured from first to last court appearance.

Adult Criminal Court Survey data are not reported by New Brunswick, Manitoba, British Columbia, Northwest Territories, and Nunavut.

Source: Adult Criminal Court Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

Eleven percent of cases took more than 1 year to resolve

Of total cases in 2000/01, 32% were resolved within a month, and less than half (44%) took between one and eight months to complete. It took between eight months and one year to complete 13% of cases, and the elapsed time was more than one year in 11% of cases heard.

The distribution of cases across these elapsed time categories has changed in the last five years. The number of cases taking more than one year has risen 6% since 1996/97, while the number of cases requiring one appearance decreased 24% over the same period.

Some offences take longer to resolve than others, such as sexual abuse, sexual assault, gaming and homicide. Sexual assault and sexual abuse cases had a median elapsed time of 221 and 239 days respectively in 2000/01. In 1996/97, the median elapsed time for these types of cases was, respectively, 182 and 191 days. These median values can be compared to the overall median elapsed time for *Crimes Against the Person*, 118 days in 1996/97 and 126 days in 2000/01. One of the shortest median elapsed times in 2000/01 occurred for administration of justice cases (26 days).

Cases have become more complex

The percentage of cases taking six or more appearances increased from 26% to 33% over the past five years. The mean number of appearances per case has increased 19%, from 4.2 appearances in 1996/97 to 5.0 appearances in 2000/01. This suggests that although the total number of cases being processed by the courts has been falling, the demand on court resources by these complex cases has increased.

The composition of cases being heard is one factor that has contributed to this increase. Cases involving multiple charges require a higher mean number of appearances to be resolved than cases involving a single charge (5.5 appearances versus 4.6). From 1996/97 to 2000/01, multiple-charge cases have increased from 46% to 48% of cases heard in court. The largest increase in the proportion of multiple-charge cases occurred for public order offences, rising from 31% in 1996/97 to 52% in 2000/01. The percentage of multiple-charge cases declined for homicide, attempted murder, impaired driving and gaming offences.

The proportion of cases with three or more charges has increased from 18% of all cases in 1996/97 to 21% in 2000/01. The proportion of multiple-charge cases with six or more appearances increased from 30% of all multiple-charge cases to 37% of all multiple-charge cases during this same period.

⁸ 59 C.C.C. (3d) 449. In this decision, the Supreme Court affirmed the right of an accused to be brought to trial without excessive delay. Further clarification of the issue was provided in *R. v. Morin* (1992) 71 C.C.C. (3d) 193 (S.C.C.). The judgement in *Morin* suggested that an eight to ten month delay was tolerable between charges being laid and the subsequent trial in provincial court.

⁹ The median represents the mid-point of a group of values when all the values are sorted by size.

OVERVIEW OF CASE OUTCOMES

Conviction rates stable over the period 1996/97 to 2000/01

A conviction was recorded in 61% of cases heard in court in 2000/01 (**Figure 2**).¹⁰ In 33% of the cases the most serious offence was resolved by being stayed, withdrawn, or dismissed and 2% of the cases resulted in the acquittal of the accused. The proportion of cases resulting in a conviction has varied by three percentage points over the past five years.

Conviction rates vary by offence group

Criminal Code Traffic offences had the highest conviction rate (76%) in 2000/01 (**Figure 3**). Several factors impact on differing conviction rates for offence categories. For example, some crimes may be easier to prove than others, depending on the number and availability of witnesses and the complexity of

¹⁰ The calculation of conviction rates excludes 3,701 (1.0%) cases with final decisions of 'Commit for Trial in Superior court' and 'Re-election to Provincial Court'.

Box 2

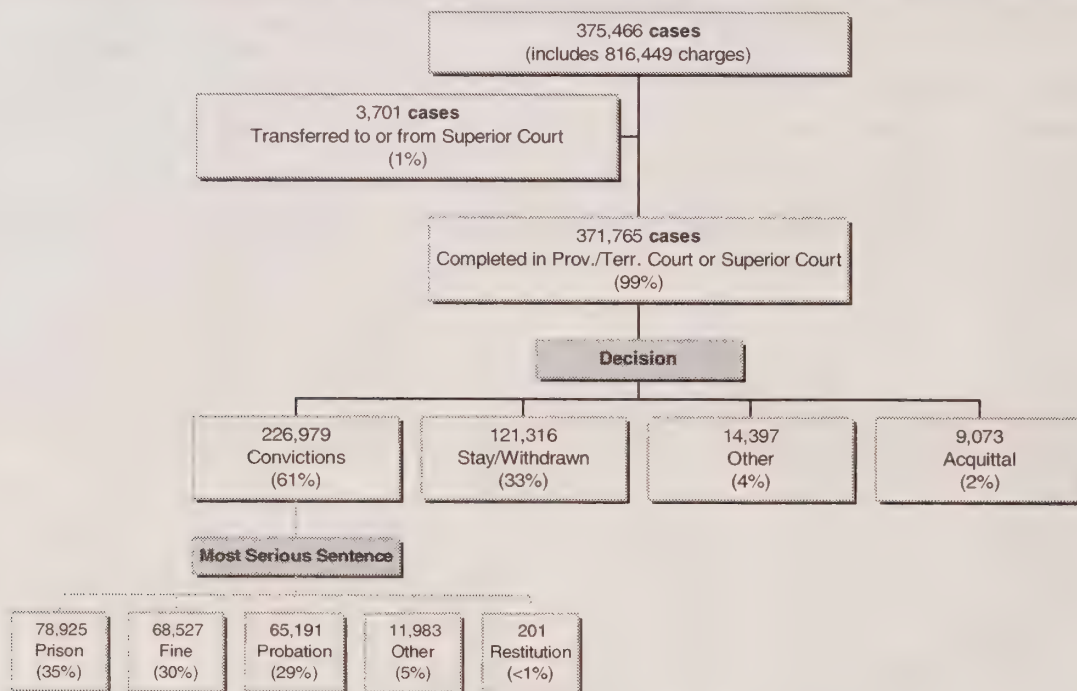
Decisions in Adult Provincial/Territorial Criminal Court

The decision categories in this report are as follows:

- **Guilty** includes guilty of the charged offence, of an included offence, of an attempt of the charged offence, or of an attempt of an included offence.
- **Superior Court** represents criminal proceedings that have been transferred to another level of court. This includes cases in provincial/territorial criminal court that are transferred to Superior Court, and Superior Court cases that have a re-election back to provincial court as their final appearance. In 2000/01, Prince Edward Island, Alberta and the Yukon supplied criminal trial data from Superior court, and data on the re-election of cases back to provincial court.
- **Other Decision** includes found not criminally responsible, waived in province/territory, and waived out of province/territory. This category also includes any order that does not carry a conviction, the court's acceptance of a special plea, cases which raise Charter arguments and cases where the accused was found unfit to stand trial.
- **Stay/Withdrawn/Dismissed** includes stay of proceedings, and withdrawn/dismissed/discharged at preliminary inquiry. These decisions all refer to the court stopping criminal proceedings against the accused.
- **Acquitted** means that the accused has been found not guilty of the charges presented before the court.

Figure 2

Adult court processing of federal statute cases in provincial and selected superior courts, Eight provinces and territories in Canada, 2000/01



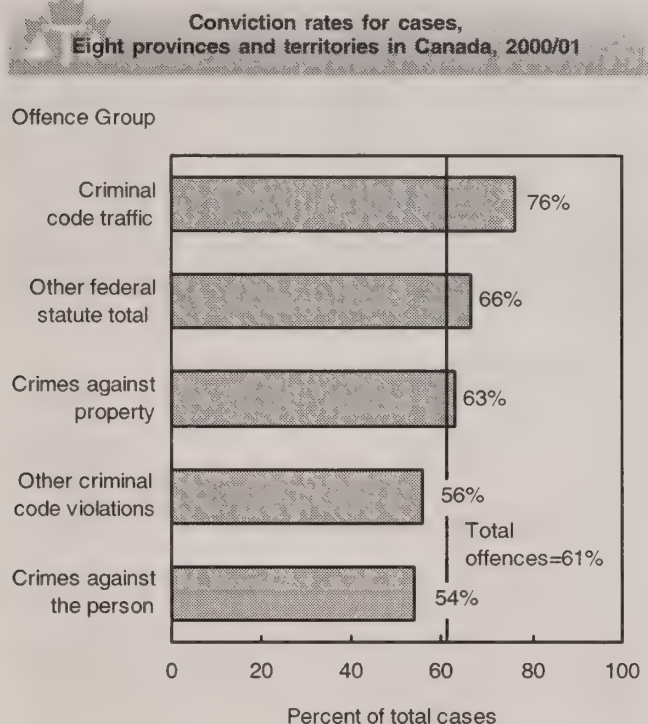
Notes: The calculation of conviction rates excludes 3,701 (1.0%) cases with final decisions of 'Commit for Trial in Superior court' and 'Re-election to Provincial Court'. Superior Court transfers represent cases where the last available disposition is a change in court level (i.e., Committed for Trial in Superior Court, and Re-election to Provincial Court). Dispositions of this type indicate an incomplete criminal trial process, where the guilt or innocence of the accused has not been determined. In 2000/01, Prince Edward Island, Alberta and the Yukon supplied criminal trial data from Superior court, and data on the re-election of cases back to provincial court. Quebec was unable to provide data on restitution for 2000/01. Of convicted cases in Quebec in 1999/00, 81 (0.2%) had a Most Serious Sentence of restitution. The sentence was not known in 2,152 (0.9%) convicted cases in 2000/01.

Adult Criminal Court Survey data are not reported by New Brunswick, Manitoba, British Columbia, Northwest Territories, and Nunavut.

Source: Adult Criminal Court Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

evidence presented by the Crown. As well, the number of charges the police lay for each incident will influence the number of charges coming into court and may have an impact on the distribution of case decisions if some charges are dropped.

Figure 3



Note: The calculation of conviction rates excludes 3,701 (1.0%) cases with final decisions of 'Commit for Trial in Superior court' and 'Re-election to Provincial Court'. Adult Criminal Court Survey data are not reported by New Brunswick, Manitoba, British Columbia, Northwest Territories, and Nunavut.

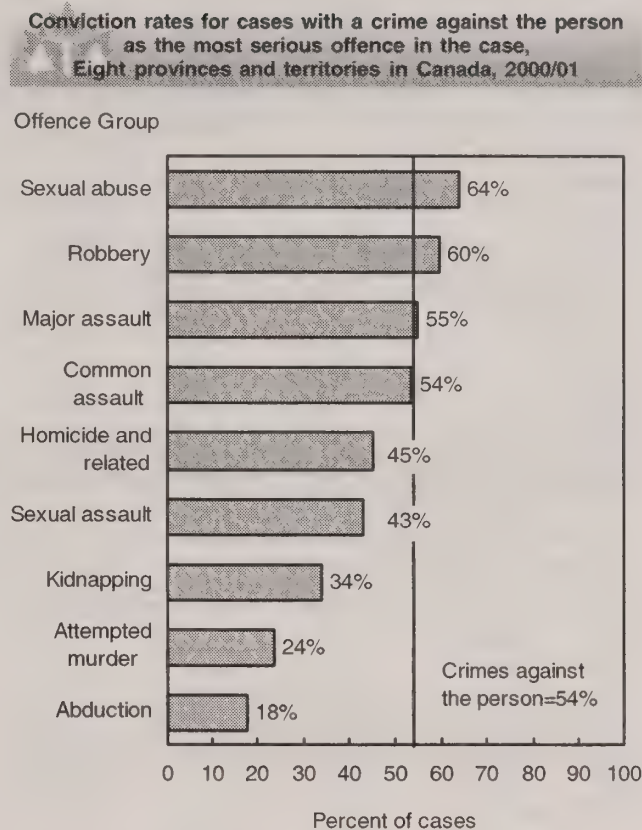
Source: Adult Criminal Court Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

On average, 54% of *Crimes Against the Person* resulted in a conviction (**Figure 4**). As can be seen, there was considerable variability, with the conviction rates ranging from 18% for abduction to 60% for robbery and 64% for sexual abuse. In contrast to *Crimes Against the Person*, there was considerable uniformity in the conviction rates for *Crimes Against Property*, with the conviction rates ranging from 60% for arson to 69% for break and enter. On average, 63% of *Crimes Against Property* resulted in a conviction (**Figure 5**).

Quebec, Newfoundland and Labrador, and Prince Edward Island have higher conviction rates

As can be seen in **Table 4**, overall conviction rates were highest in Quebec (73%), Newfoundland and Labrador (73%), and Prince Edward Island (70%), and lowest in Nova Scotia (53%), Ontario (57%) and the Yukon (51%).

Figure 4



Note: The calculation of conviction rates excludes 1,836 (2.3%) Crimes Against the Person cases with final decisions of 'Commit for Trial in Superior court' and 'Re-election to Provincial Court'. Adult Criminal Court Survey data are not reported by New Brunswick, Manitoba, British Columbia, Northwest Territories, and Nunavut.

Source: Adult Criminal Court Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

There are several possible factors that influence variations in conviction rates between those provinces with high conviction rates and those with lower conviction rates. First, some jurisdictions use diversion and alternative measures to a greater extent, which affects the number and types of cases that proceed to court. Secondly, the use of stays and withdrawals varies across the country, and this will have an impact on the percentage of cases in which a conviction is recorded. For example, 41% of cases were stayed or withdrawn in Ontario, whereas 11% were terminated in this way in Quebec. Thirdly, the use of pre-charge screening by the Crown, which occurs in Quebec,¹¹ may also affect the percentage of convictions through increased vetting of charges. Finally, the number of charges laid against an individual in relation to similar incidents may vary from one jurisdiction to another. For example, the same criminal incident may result in one charge (e.g., major assault) in one jurisdiction, and two charges (e.g., major assault and attempted murder) in another jurisdiction.

¹¹ New Brunswick and British Columbia also have pre-charge screening, but these jurisdictions do not currently report to the Adult Criminal Court Survey.

Table 4

**Cases by decision,
Eight provinces and territories in Canada, 2000/01**

| Jurisdiction | Total Cases | Decision | | | | | | | |
|---------------------------|----------------|----------------|-------------|---------------|------------|------------------|-------------|--------------|------------|
| | | Guilty # | % | Other # | % | Stay/Withdrawn # | % | Acquitted # | % |
| TOTAL | 371,765 | 226,979 | 61.1 | 14,397 | 3.9 | 121,316 | 32.6 | 9,073 | 2.4 |
| Newfoundland and Labrador | 6,881 | 5,033 | 73.1 | 195 | 2.8 | 1,650 | 24.0 | 3 | 0 |
| Prince Edward Island | 1,725 | 1,210 | 70.1 | 27 | 1.6 | 472 | 27.4 | 16 | 0.9 |
| Nova Scotia | 15,145 | 7,980 | 52.7 | 732 | 4.8 | 5,846 | 38.6 | 587 | 3.9 |
| Quebec | 68,474 | 49,869 | 72.8 | 4,795 | 7.0 | 7,501 | 11.0 | 6,309 | 9.2 |
| Ontario | 190,239 | 107,438 | 56.5 | 4,511 | 2.4 | 77,288 | 40.6 | 1,002 | 0.5 |
| Saskatchewan | 26,072 | 16,000 | 61.4 | 827 | 3.2 | 8,943 | 34.3 | 302 | 1.2 |
| Alberta | 62,095 | 38,868 | 62.6 | 3,243 | 5.2 | 19,153 | 30.8 | 831 | 1.3 |
| Yukon | 1,134 | 581 | 51.2 | 67 | 5.9 | 463 | 40.8 | 23 | 2.0 |

Notes: Due to rounding, percentages may not add to 100.

The calculation of conviction rates excludes 3,701 (1.0%) cases with final decisions of 'Commit for Trial in Superior court' and 'Re-election to Provincial Court'.

Includes cases completed in superior courts in Prince Edward Island, Alberta and Yukon.

Information from Quebec's 140 municipal courts (which account for approximately 20% of federal statute charges in that province) are not yet collected.

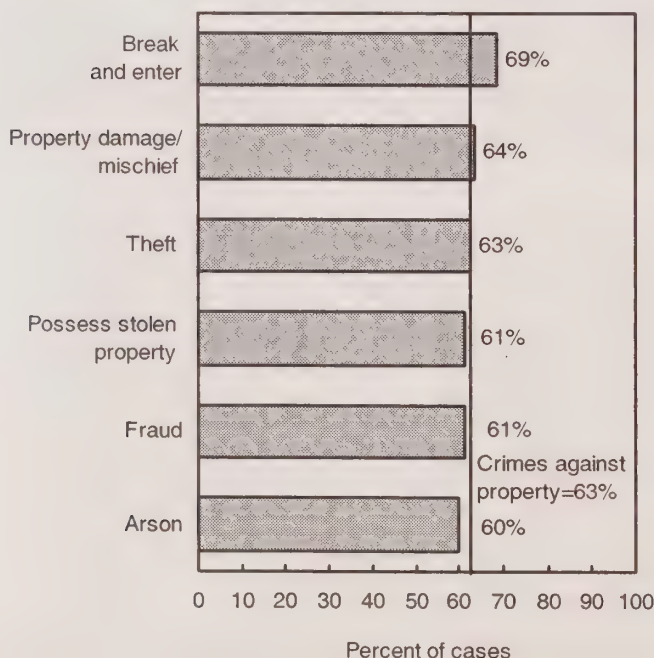
Adult Criminal Court Survey data are not reported by New Brunswick, Manitoba, British Columbia, Northwest Territories, and Nunavut.

Source: Adult Criminal Court Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

Figure 5

**Conviction rates for cases with a crime against
property as the most serious offence in the case,
Eight provinces and territories in Canada, 2000/01**

Offence Group



Note: The calculation of conviction rates excludes 716 (0.8%) Crimes Against Property cases with final decisions of 'Commit for Trial in Superior court' and 'Re-election to Provincial Court'. Adult Criminal Court Survey data are not reported by New Brunswick, Manitoba, British Columbia, Northwest Territories, and Nunavut.

Source: Adult Criminal Court Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

SENTENCING PATTERNS

Determining the sentence to be imposed is one of the most complex and challenging decisions for a court. At sentencing, the court will seek to impose a sentence that reflects the purpose, objectives and principles of the sentencing process. Since 1996, the *Criminal Code* contains a section that outlines the purposes and principles of sentencing (Section 718).

Probation was the most common sentence in 2000/01

Probation was the most frequent sentence, imposed in 44% of all cases with a conviction. Fines were imposed in 37% of all cases. Prison was imposed in 35% of cases.¹² A high percentage of cases (48%) received what are classified as "other sentences". This category of sentence includes: conditional sentences, absolute discharges, conditional discharges, suspended sentences, licence suspensions, prohibitions against the ownership of firearms, and other court-ordered sanctions.

About four in every ten convictions for *Crimes Against the Person* received prison

Incarceration was imposed as a sentence for slightly more than one third (35%) of all cases. In 2000/01, 38% of convicted *Crimes Against the Person* cases were sentenced to prison. One factor to be considered when examining the use of incarceration in this category is that common assault — the least serious form of assault with a relatively low use of incarceration (28%) — represents the majority (59%) of convicted cases in the *Crimes Against the Person* category.

¹² Cases can have more than one sentence. Therefore, sanctions are not mutually exclusive and will not add to 100%.

When common assault is removed, the remainder of the *Crimes Against the Person* category has a much higher use of incarceration (53%). **Table 5** provides information relating to the type of sentence for the most serious offence from 1996/97 to 2000/01.

Majority of offenders convicted of break and enter were sentenced to prison

Offenders were sentenced to prison in 40% of the convicted *Crimes Against Property* cases. Persons committing these offences tend to have longer criminal histories¹³, and after the seriousness of the crime, an offender's criminal history is one

of the most important factors considered by the court when determining the sanction to be imposed. Prison was frequently used as a sanction for convictions in several *Crimes Against Property* offences. For example, 61% of convicted break and enter cases, 38% of convicted theft cases, and more than a third (35%) of convicted fraud cases resulted in a prison sentence.

¹³ See G. Campbell. 1993. An Examination of Recidivism in Relation to Offence Histories and Offender Profiles. *Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 85F0022XPE*. Ottawa: Statistics Canada.

Table 5

Convicted cases by type of sentence for the most serious offence in the case, Eight provinces and territories in Canada, 2000/01

| Fiscal Year | Convicted Cases | Type of Sentence for Most Serious Offence | | | | | |
|------------------------------------|-----------------|---|-------------|----------------|-------------|----------------|-------------|
| | | Prison | | Probation | | Fine | |
| | | # | % | # | % | # | % |
| 1996/97 Total | 261,644 | 86,026 | 32.9 | 106,872 | 40.8 | 115,034 | 44.0 |
| Criminal Code Total | 225,322 | 79,844 | 35.4 | 99,805 | 44.3 | 89,338 | 39.6 |
| Crimes Against the Person | 41,383 | 16,309 | 39.4 | 29,522 | 71.3 | 8,553 | 20.7 |
| Crimes Against Property | 71,870 | 26,599 | 37.0 | 38,174 | 53.1 | 20,162 | 28.1 |
| Other Criminal Code Violations | 57,792 | 24,287 | 42.0 | 20,972 | 36.3 | 19,000 | 32.9 |
| Criminal Code Traffic | 54,277 | 12,649 | 23.3 | 11,137 | 20.5 | 41,623 | 76.7 |
| Other Federal Statute Total | 36,322 | 6,182 | 17.0 | 7,067 | 19.5 | 25,696 | 70.7 |
| 1997/98 Total | 250,073 | 82,668 | 33.1 | 106,438 | 42.6 | 103,498 | 41.4 |
| Criminal Code Total | 218,583 | 76,877 | 35.2 | 99,295 | 45.4 | 82,550 | 37.8 |
| Crimes Against the Person | 42,105 | 15,847 | 37.6 | 30,506 | 72.5 | 7,629 | 18.1 |
| Crimes Against Property | 65,643 | 24,670 | 37.6 | 35,978 | 54.8 | 16,688 | 25.4 |
| Other Criminal Code Violations | 59,204 | 24,898 | 42.1 | 22,443 | 37.9 | 18,323 | 30.9 |
| Criminal Code Traffic | 51,631 | 11,462 | 22.2 | 10,368 | 20.1 | 39,910 | 77.3 |
| Other Federal Statute Total | 31,490 | 5,791 | 18.4 | 7,143 | 22.7 | 20,948 | 66.5 |
| 1998/99 Total | 240,653 | 84,011 | 34.9 | 100,897 | 41.9 | 95,989 | 39.9 |
| Criminal Code Total | 209,923 | 77,918 | 37.1 | 93,783 | 44.7 | 75,825 | 36.1 |
| Crimes Against the Person | 42,654 | 16,787 | 39.4 | 30,786 | 72.2 | 7,190 | 16.9 |
| Crimes Against Property | 63,580 | 26,098 | 41.0 | 33,571 | 52.8 | 15,370 | 24.2 |
| Other Criminal Code Violations | 60,453 | 26,381 | 43.6 | 22,209 | 36.7 | 18,865 | 31.2 |
| Criminal Code Traffic | 43,236 | 8,652 | 20.0 | 7,217 | 16.7 | 34,400 | 79.6 |
| Other Federal Statute Total | 30,730 | 6,093 | 19.8 | 7,114 | 23.2 | 20,164 | 65.6 |
| 1999/00 Total | 228,267 | 77,977 | 34.2 | 96,761 | 42.4 | 89,556 | 39.2 |
| Criminal Code Total | 199,066 | 72,349 | 36.3 | 89,587 | 45.0 | 71,095 | 35.7 |
| Crimes Against the Person | 40,055 | 15,312 | 38.2 | 29,144 | 72.8 | 6,587 | 16.4 |
| Crimes Against Property | 58,959 | 23,532 | 39.9 | 31,542 | 53.5 | 14,076 | 23.9 |
| Other Criminal Code Violations | 59,796 | 25,847 | 43.2 | 22,325 | 37.3 | 18,223 | 30.5 |
| Criminal Code Traffic | 40,256 | 7,658 | 19.0 | 6,576 | 16.3 | 32,209 | 80.0 |
| Other Federal Statute Total | 29,201 | 5,628 | 19.3 | 7,174 | 24.6 | 18,461 | 63.2 |
| 2000/01 Total | 226,979 | 78,925 | 34.8 | 99,666 | 43.9 | 84,386 | 37.2 |
| Criminal Code Total | 198,263 | 73,522 | 37.1 | 92,083 | 46.4 | 66,914 | 33.8 |
| Crimes Against the Person | 40,803 | 15,672 | 38.4 | 30,390 | 74.5 | 5,809 | 14.2 |
| Crimes Against Property | 56,670 | 22,667 | 40.0 | 31,315 | 55.3 | 12,615 | 22.3 |
| Other Criminal Code Violations | 62,843 | 27,898 | 44.4 | 23,926 | 38.1 | 18,104 | 28.8 |
| Criminal Code Traffic | 37,947 | 7,285 | 19.2 | 6,452 | 17.0 | 30,386 | 80.1 |
| Other Federal Statute Total | 28,716 | 5,403 | 18.8 | 7,583 | 26.4 | 17,472 | 60.8 |

Notes: The sentence types presented are not mutually exclusive, and will not add to 100.

Adult Criminal Court Survey data are not reported by New Brunswick, Manitoba, British Columbia, Nunavut for all years, and Northwest Territories for 1996/97 and 2000/01.

Source: Adult Criminal Court Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

Similarly, *Other Criminal Code Violations* cases which were sentenced to prison in 44% of convicted cases, were dominated by offences related to the criminal history of the accused. This offence category includes administration of justice offences. The courts consider administration of justice offences to be very serious, and the majority (56%) of such cases were sentenced to prison.

Use of imprisonment varies considerably across the country

The proportion of cases sentenced to prison varies across the country. In 2000/2001, the highest incarceration rate was in Prince Edward Island, where 59% of convicted cases resulted in a term of imprisonment, while the lowest incarceration rate was in Saskatchewan, where prison was imposed in 22% of cases (Figure 6).

This variation in the use of incarceration reflects the influence of several factors. First, the mix of offences being sentenced can vary from jurisdiction to jurisdiction. If a particular jurisdiction has a higher than average percentage of the more serious crimes, it may also have a higher than average overall percentage of cases being sent to prison.

Second, courts in different parts of the country may use incarceration in different ways. In Prince Edward Island, for example, first offenders convicted of impaired driving are frequently sent to prison. Since this offence category accounts for 27% of convicted cases in the province, the overall proportion of cases sentenced to prison in Prince Edward Island will be higher than the national average. Of all impaired driving convictions in Prince Edward Island, 91% resulted in incarceration. This is by far the highest in Canada followed by Newfoundland and Labrador with 26%. The lowest rate of incarceration occurred in Nova Scotia where 5% of the convicted impaired drivers were incarcerated.

It should be added that those jurisdictions that sentence a relatively lower percentage of convicted offenders to prison still may have relatively larger per capita prison populations. If there is a high volume of convicted cases processed in a jurisdiction, the absolute number of offenders incarcerated may also be high, and this may result in a higher per capita prison population.

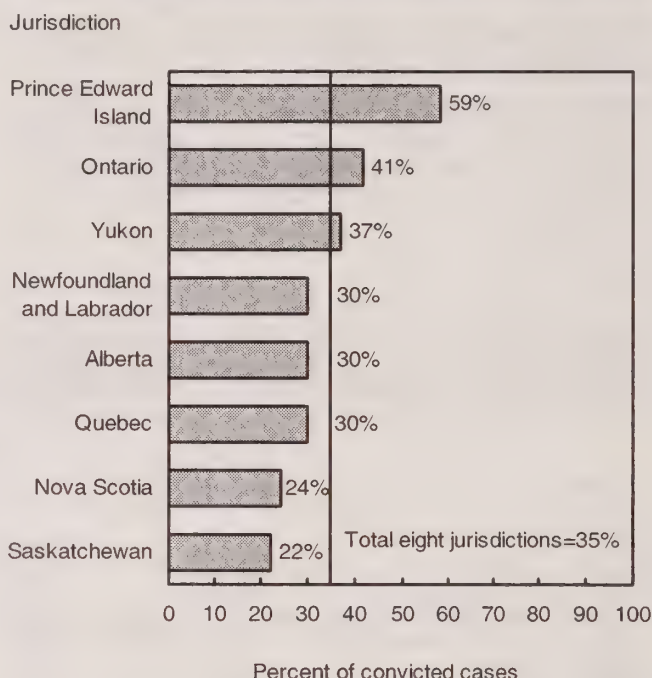
Little change in proportion of cases sentenced to prison between 1996/97 and 2000/01

The proportion of cases where prison was used as a sanction remained relatively stable between 1996/97 (33%) and 2000/01 (35%) (Table 5). However, some variability was evident at the offence level. For example, in the *Crimes Against the Person* category, the incarceration rate for sexual assault was 53% of convicted cases in 2000/01, down eight percentage points from 1996/97. The incarceration rate for major assault dropped from 50% to 48% during the same period. No offence in the *Crimes Against the Person* category showed an increased incarceration rate from four years earlier.

In the *Crimes Against Property* category, two offences showed a notable increase between 1996/97 and 2000/01. Theft and possess stolen property saw increases in their incarceration rates, growing from 33% and 42% in 1996/97 to 38% and

Figure 6

Percent of convicted cases sentenced to prison for the most serious offence in the case, Eight provinces and territories in Canada, 2000/01



Note: Includes cases completed in superior courts in Prince Edward Island, Alberta and Yukon. Information from Quebec's 140 municipal courts (which account for approximately 20% of federal statute charges in that province) are not yet collected. Adult Criminal Court Survey data are not reported by New Brunswick, Manitoba, British Columbia, Northwest Territories, and Nunavut.

Source: Adult Criminal Court Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

46%, respectively, in 2000/01. In the *Crimes Against Property* category the only offence showing a slight decline in the incarceration rate during the same period was break and enter where the proportion of cases being sentenced to prison dropped slightly from 62% to 61%.

Most terms of imprisonment are relatively short

Over half (52%) of all custodial sentences imposed in 2000/01 were one month or less, while an additional 35% were for periods from greater than one month up to six months.¹⁴ Custodial sentences of two years or more were imposed in 4% of convicted cases with prison (Table 6).

Some offences show increases in prison sentence lengths

The median prison sentence length for *Criminal Code* offences has been 30 days for four of the past five years. Only in 1998/99 did the median prison length increase, moving up to 31 days. While the overall prison sentence length has remained stable, there has been movement in the median sentence

¹⁴ Excludes 4,085 (5.2%) cases with unknown prison length.

Table 6

Convicted cases by length of prison sentence, Selected provinces and territories in Canada, 1996/97 to 2000/01

| Fiscal Year | Convicted Cases With Prison | Length of Prison Sentence | | | | | | | | | |
|-------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------|------|----------------|------|-----------------|-----|----------------|-----|-----------------|-----|
| | | 1 month or less | | >1 to 6 months | | >6 to 12 months | | >1 to <2 years | | 2 years or more | |
| | | # | % | # | % | # | % | # | % | # | % |
| 1996/97 | 84,470 | 41,922 | 49.6 | 31,664 | 37.5 | 5,405 | 6.4 | 2,733 | 3.2 | 2,746 | 3.3 |
| 1997/98 | 80,788 | 39,959 | 49.5 | 30,135 | 37.3 | 5,369 | 6.6 | 2,676 | 3.3 | 2,649 | 3.3 |
| 1998/99 | 80,206 | 39,415 | 49.1 | 29,569 | 36.9 | 5,272 | 6.6 | 2,788 | 3.5 | 3,162 | 3.9 |
| 1999/00 | 74,131 | 37,389 | 50.4 | 26,815 | 36.2 | 4,620 | 6.2 | 2,396 | 3.2 | 2,911 | 3.9 |
| 2000/01 | 74,840 | 39,191 | 52.4 | 25,874 | 34.6 | 4,464 | 6.0 | 2,463 | 3.3 | 2,848 | 3.8 |

Notes: Due to rounding, percentages may not add to 100.

Excludes cases with unknown length of prison sentence: 1996/97 (1,556); 1997/98 (1,880); 1998/99 (3,805); 1999/00 (3,846); 2000/01 (4,085).

Adult Criminal Court Survey data are not reported by New Brunswick, Manitoba, British Columbia, Nunavut for all years, and Northwest Territories for 1996/97 and 2000/01.

Source: Adult Criminal Court Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

length for some offences. For instance, the median prison sentence for common assault rose by 20% from 30 days in 1996/97 to 36 days in 2000/01 (Table 7). Other increases during this period were for sexual assault and sexual abuse offences. The median prison sentence increased for sexual assault from 270 to 360 days and from 180 to 360 days for sexual abuse.

Use of probation

In 2000/01, as can be seen in Table 5, *Crimes Against the Person* were most likely to attract a sentence of probation. Three-quarters of convicted cases in this category were sentenced to a term of probation, compared to 55% of offenders convicted of *Crimes Against Property*. It should be noted that a substantial proportion of convicted cases involving *Crimes Against the Person* received a term of imprisonment along with the probation order. Of the 30,390 convicted *Crimes Against the Person* cases that received probation in 2000/01, 32% also received a prison sentence.

In 2000/01, the most common probation term length was "greater than six months to one year" (45% of convicted cases with probation) (Figure 7).¹⁵ One-third (34%) of cases were greater than 12 months to two years. Fifteen per cent were for six months or less. Only 7% of probation terms were for a period of more than two years. (The statutory limit on a term of probation is three years).

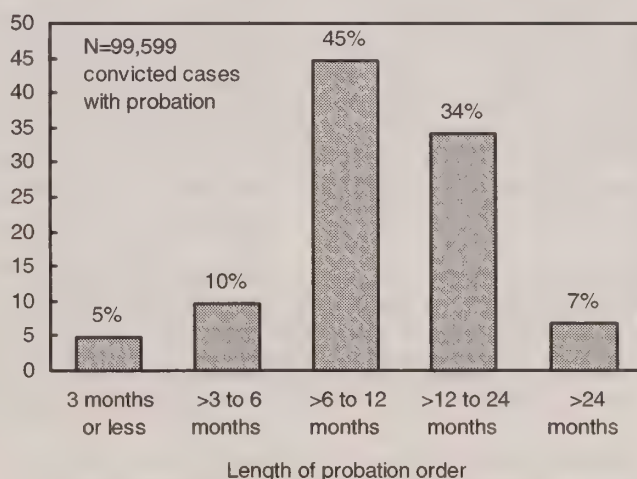
Trends in the use of probation

In recent years, adult criminal courts have been using probation more often as a sanction. Between 1996/97 and 1999/00, the rate of convicted cases receiving a probation sentence increased from 41% to 42%. This rate rose in 2000/01 to 44%. Among all offence groups, the largest increase between 1996/97 and 2000/01 occurred for *Crimes Against the Person* where the rate of probation for guilty cases increased from 71% to 75%. Gaming showed the largest change, with the proportion of convicted cases receiving probation increasing from 26% to 47%. Morals-sexual (mainly prostitution-related crimes),

Figure 7

Convicted cases by length of probation for the most serious offence in the case, Eight provinces and territories in Canada, 2000/01

Percent



Note: Due to rounding, percentages may not add to 100. The length of probation was unknown in 67 (<1.0%) cases where probation was ordered. Adult Criminal Court Survey data are not reported by New Brunswick, Manitoba, British Columbia, Northwest Territories, and Nunavut.

Source: Adult Criminal Court Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

showed the second largest change, where 49% of convicted cases received probation in 2000/01 compared to 40% in 1996/97.

¹⁵ The length of probation was unknown in 67 (<1.0%) cases where probation was ordered.

Table 7

Convicted cases by median prison and probation sentence, and fine amount, Selected provinces and Territories in Canada, 1996/97 to 2000/01

| Offence Group | 1996/97 | | | 1997/98 | | | 1998/99 | | | 1999/00 | | | 2000/01 | | |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------|
| | Prison median (days) | Probation median (days) | Fine median (\$) | Prison median (days) | Probation median (days) | Fine median (\$) | Prison median (days) | Probation median (days) | Fine median (\$) | Prison median (days) | Probation median (days) | Fine median (\$) | Prison median (days) | Probation median (days) | Fine median (\$) |
| Total Offences | 40 | 365 | 300 | 40 | 365 | 300 | 45 | 365 | 300 | 30 | 365 | 300 | 30 | 365 | 400 |
| Criminal Code Total | 30 | 365 | 300 | 30 | 365 | 350 | 31 | 365 | 350 | 30 | 365 | 400 | 30 | 365 | 500 |
| Crimes Against the Person | 90 | 365 | 300 | 90 | 365 | 300 | 90 | 365 | 300 | 90 | 365 | 300 | 90 | 365 | 300 |
| Homicide and related | 2,190 | 730 | 250 | 2,555 | 730 | 275 | 2,190 | 913 | 525 | 2,190 | 725 | 500 | 2,780 | 540 | 700 |
| Attempted murder | 900 | 1,080 | 500 | 1,148 | 730 | 0 | 1,080 | 1,095 | 11,750 | 1,620 | 1,095 | 1,000 | 1,935 | 730 | 9,400 |
| Robbery | 540 | 730 | 300 | 540 | 730 | 350 | 540 | 730 | 300 | 540 | 730 | 300 | 540 | 730 | 400 |
| Kidnapping | 180 | 730 | 1,500 | 180 | 730 | 425 | 270 | 730 | 350 | 180 | 730 | 500 | 393 | 730 | 500 |
| Sexual assault | 270 | 730 | 500 | 270 | 730 | 500 | 360 | 730 | 500 | 300 | 730 | 500 | 360 | 730 | 500 |
| Sexual abuse | 180 | 730 | 500 | 222 | 730 | 500 | 210 | 730 | 500 | 240 | 730 | 500 | 360 | 730 | 500 |
| Major assault | 90 | 540 | 300 | 90 | 540 | 300 | 90 | 540 | 350 | 90 | 450 | 325 | 90 | 540 | 400 |
| Abduction | 180 | 730 | 125 | 89 | 720 | 450 | 30 | 730 | 600 | 180 | 453 | 50 | 30 | 365 | 0 |
| Common assault | 30 | 365 | 250 | 45 | 365 | 300 | 45 | 365 | 300 | 45 | 365 | 300 | 36 | 365 | 300 |
| Crimes Against Property | 60 | 365 | 200 | 60 | 365 | 200 | 60 | 365 | 200 | 60 | 365 | 200 | 60 | 365 | 250 |
| Break and enter | 180 | 730 | 300 | 180 | 720 | 300 | 180 | 540 | 300 | 180 | 540 | 300 | 180 | 540 | 375 |
| Arson | 270 | 730 | 500 | 270 | 730 | 325 | 285 | 730 | 300 | 300 | 730 | 500 | 270 | 730 | 400 |
| Fraud | 60 | 450 | 200 | 60 | 365 | 200 | 70 | 365 | 200 | 60 | 365 | 250 | 60 | 365 | 250 |
| Possess stolen property | 60 | 365 | 300 | 60 | 365 | 300 | 60 | 365 | 300 | 60 | 365 | 300 | 60 | 365 | 300 |
| Theft | 30 | 365 | 200 | 30 | 365 | 200 | 30 | 365 | 200 | 30 | 365 | 200 | 30 | 365 | 200 |
| Property damage/mischief | 30 | 365 | 200 | 30 | 365 | 200 | 30 | 365 | 200 | 30 | 365 | 200 | 30 | 365 | 200 |
| Other Criminal Code Violations | 30 | 365 | 200 | 30 | 365 | 200 | 30 | 365 | 200 | 30 | 365 | 200 | 24 | 365 | 200 |
| Weapons | 60 | 365 | 200 | 90 | 365 | 200 | 60 | 365 | 250 | 60 | 365 | 250 | 60 | 365 | 250 |
| Administration of justice | 20 | 365 | 150 | 20 | 365 | 150 | 20 | 365 | 150 | 17 | 365 | 150 | 15 | 365 | 150 |
| Public order offences | 15 | 360 | 200 | 15 | 360 | 200 | 30 | 360 | 200 | 30 | 360 | 200 | 20 | 360 | 200 |
| Morals - sexual | 15 | 365 | 200 | 10 | 365 | 200 | 12 | 365 | 200 | 10 | 365 | 200 | 10 | 365 | 250 |
| Morals - gaming | 3 | 360 | 750 | 7 | 360 | 750 | 16 | 360 | 1,000 | 90 | 360 | 1,000 | 75 | 365 | 1,500 |
| Unspecified Criminal Code | 30 | 365 | 200 | 30 | 365 | 200 | 30 | 365 | 200 | 30 | 365 | 200 | 30 | 365 | 250 |
| Criminal Code Traffic | 30 | 360 | 500 | 30 | 360 | 500 | 30 | 360 | 500 | 30 | 360 | 600 | 30 | 360 | 700 |
| Other Criminal Code traffic | 30 | 360 | 500 | 35 | 360 | 500 | 30 | 360 | 500 | 45 | 360 | 500 | 30 | 360 | 600 |
| Impaired driving | 30 | 360 | 500 | 30 | 360 | 500 | 30 | 360 | 500 | 30 | 360 | 600 | 30 | 360 | 700 |
| Other Federal Statute Total | 70 | 365 | 150 | 80 | 365 | 150 | 90 | 365 | 200 | 60 | 365 | 200 | 60 | 365 | 200 |

Notes: Revised figures for 1996/97, 1997/98, and 1998/99. Revisions were made to the calculation of median prison sentence lengths in 1999/00 and the previous three years were recalculated using the same formula. Excludes cases where the length of prison was not known, and cases where the length was specified as indeterminate. Cases sentenced to life imprisonment were recoded to 9,125 days (or 25 years) for the calculation of sentence lengths medians.

Adult Criminal Court Survey data are not reported by New Brunswick, Manitoba, British Columbia, Nunavut for all years, and Northwest Territories for 1996/97 and 2000/01.

Source: Adult Criminal Court Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

Length of probation terms stable over past five years

While the relative use of probation has increased over the past five years, there has been little change in the length of probation orders. The overall median length of all probation orders in 2000/01 was 365 days, which is the same since 1996/97 (Table 7).

Median amount of fine increases

Since 1996/97, the imposition of fine sentences has been decreasing (Figure 8). In 2000/01, 37% of convicted cases were given a fine, compared to 44% in 1996/97. During the same period, there has been a trend towards imposing higher fines. In 1996/97, 21% of all fines were for amounts over \$500, whereas by 2000/01, 42% of all fines were for amounts

over \$500 (Table 8).¹⁶ The median amount of fine, which was \$300 between 1996/97 and 1999/00, increased to \$400 in 2000/01 (Table 7).

METHODOLOGY

The purpose of the Adult Criminal Court Survey (ACCS) is to provide a national database of statistical information on the processing of cases through the adult criminal court system. The survey consists of a census of *Criminal Code* and other federal statute charges dealt with in provincial/territorial adult criminal courts.

¹⁶ Excludes cases with unknown fine amount: 1996/97 (1,651, 1.4%); 2000/01 (1,916, 2.3%).

Table 8

**Convicted cases by amount of fine,
Selected provinces and territories in Canada, 1996/97 to 2000/01**

| Fiscal Year | Convicted Cases With a Fine | Amount of Fine (\$) | | | | | | | | | |
|-------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------|------|-----------------|------|-----------------|------|-------------------|------|---------|-----|
| | | \$100 or less | | >\$100 to \$300 | | >\$300 to \$500 | | > \$500 to \$1000 | | >\$1000 | |
| | | # | % | # | % | # | % | # | % | # | % |
| 1996/97 | 113,383 | 24,798 | 21.9 | 38,564 | 34.0 | 26,643 | 23.5 | 19,247 | 17.0 | 4,131 | 3.6 |
| 1997/98 | 101,886 | 19,935 | 19.6 | 34,292 | 33.7 | 24,870 | 24.4 | 18,991 | 18.6 | 3,798 | 3.7 |
| 1998/99 | 94,690 | 18,782 | 19.8 | 32,411 | 34.2 | 22,492 | 23.8 | 17,243 | 18.2 | 3,762 | 4.0 |
| 1999/00 | 86,981 | 16,218 | 18.6 | 27,584 | 31.7 | 15,715 | 18.1 | 23,347 | 26.8 | 4,117 | 4.7 |
| 2000/01 | 82,470 | 13,882 | 16.8 | 23,460 | 28.4 | 10,447 | 12.7 | 29,716 | 36.0 | 4,965 | 6.0 |

Notes: Due to rounding, percentages may not add to 100.

Excludes cases with unknown fine amount: 1996/97 (1,651); 1997/98 (1,612); 1998/99 (1,299); 1999/00 (2,575); 2000/01 (1,916).

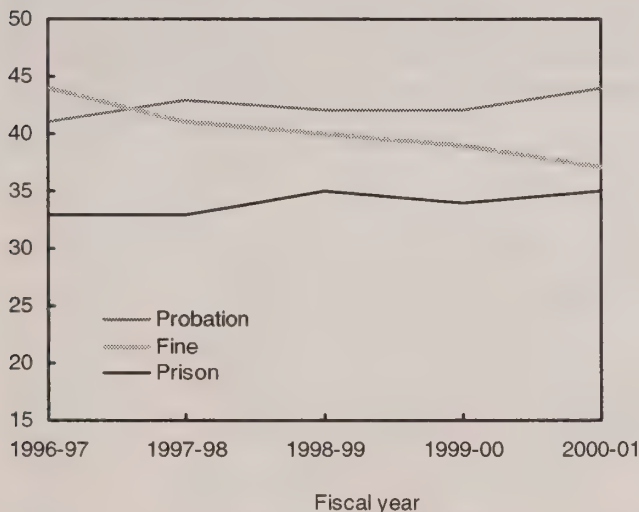
Adult Criminal Court Survey data are not reported by New Brunswick, Manitoba, British Columbia, Nunavut for all years, and Northwest Territories for 1996/97 and 2000/01.

Source: Adult Criminal Court Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

Figure 8

**Convicted cases by type of sentence,
Selected provinces and territories in Canada,
1996/97 to 2000/01**

Percent convicted cases



Note: The sentence types presented are not mutually exclusive, and will not add to 100. Adult Criminal Court Survey data are not reported by New Brunswick, Manitoba, British Columbia, Northwest Territories, Nunavut for all years, and Northwest Territories for 1996/97 and 2000/01.

Source: Adult Criminal Court Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

Coverage

Some limitations on coverage of the survey should be noted. Three provinces and one territory (New Brunswick, Manitoba and British Columbia and Nunavut) do not report to the survey at this time. The data do not include Northwest Territories for 1996/97 or 2000/01 and include two fiscal quarters of data for the territory in 1994/95 and three fiscal quarters of data in

1999/00. Also, some court locations in Quebec are not included. Information from Quebec's 140 municipal courts (which account for approximately 20% of federal statute charges in that province) are not yet collected. Finally, with the exception of Prince Edward Island, Alberta and the Yukon, no data are provided from the superior courts.

The absence of data from all but three Superior Court jurisdictions may result in a slight underestimation of the severity of sentences imposed across Canada. The reason for this is that some of the most serious cases, which are likely to result in the most severe sanctions, will be processed in superior courts. While these limitations are important, they have existed for several years, and this means that it is possible to make comparisons from one year to another using the ACCS.

Counting Procedures

The basic unit of count for the Adult Criminal Court Survey is a case. A case is one or more charges against an accused person or corporation, where the charges receive a final disposition on the same date. Charges are linked to a case on the basis of the accused identifier and the date of the last court appearance.

The Adult Criminal Court Survey counts a charge more than once under any of the following circumstances:

- a charge is stayed in one time period and restarted in another time period;
- a charge is stayed and subsequently restarted with different case identifiers;
- a charge is transferred from one court location to another; and
- a charge is transferred to superior court but subsequently returns to provincial court with different case identifiers.

Most Serious Offence and Decision Rules

When a case has more than one charge, it is necessary to decide which charge will be used to represent the case (since a case is identified by a single charge). In such multiple-charge cases, the "most serious decision" rule is applied.

Decisions are ranked from the most to the least serious as follows: 1) guilty, 2) guilty of a lesser offence, 3) committed for trial in a superior court, 4) other decisions were imposed, 5) stay of proceeding, withdrawn, dismissed 6) acquitted.

In cases where two or more offences have resulted in the same decision (e.g., guilty), the "most serious offence" rule is applied. All charges are ranked according to a seriousness scale based on the average length of prison sentence. If two charges are tied according to this criterion, information about the sentence type (e.g., prison, probation, and fine) is considered. If a tie still exists, the magnitude of the sentence is considered.

Factors influencing the number of charges laid

Charging policies are determined individually by provinces and territories. In British Columbia, Quebec, and New Brunswick, for example, the police must obtain the approval of the Crown prosecutor before a charge is laid. However, British Columbia and New Brunswick do not provide data to the ACCS at this time. In other provinces and territories, the police have exclusive responsibility for the laying of a charge. This variability may affect the number and nature of charges laid across the country.

Comparisons with other sectors of the justice system

Policing:

The Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics conducts the Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) survey. This survey collects data on the crimes reported to the police. Counts from the UCR survey for offences cleared by charge are not

comparable to ACCS figures for charges disposed of. There are many reasons for this. In part, it is the result of scoring rules used by the UCR survey. The UCR survey counts violent offences in terms of the number of victims in the incident; non-violent offences are counted in terms of the number of separate incidents. Furthermore, the UCR figures include offences involving youths, while the ACCS case counts include only the very few youth offences that have been transferred to adult court.

Corrections:

The number of cases sentenced to prison, as reported by the ACCS, will differ from the number of actual admissions to correctional facilities. The CCJS conducts the Adult Correctional Services (ACS) Survey, which measures, among other things, the number of persons admitted to correctional facilities in Canada. The number of cases with prison sentences (ACCS) and the number of admissions to correctional facilities (ACS) differ because the number of sentenced admissions reported by the Adult Correctional Services survey includes persons sentenced to prison in Superior Courts as well as admissions resulting from fine defaults. In 2000/01, three jurisdictions, Prince Edward Island, Alberta and the Yukon, reported Superior Court data to the Adult Criminal Court Survey, and sentences to prison for reason of fine defaults are not collected by the survey. Also, any accused sentenced to time-served prior to a sentence commencing would be counted differently in each survey. The ACCS does not have data on the duration of prison time already served, and the correctional data would identify these sentences as a remand prior to the completion of the trial.

Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics

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YOUTH COURT STATISTICS, 2000/01

by Paul deSouza

Highlights

- In 2000/01, 99,590 cases were processed in the youth courts of Canada. This represents a 2% decrease in the number of cases processed from the previous year and a decrease of 10% from 1996/97.
- The number of *Property crime* cases heard in youth courts decreased annually, dropping 23% between 1996/97 and 2000/01. The number of *Violent crime* cases has dropped by 6% since 1996/97. The number of *Drug-related* cases has increased by 30% since 1996/97.
- Five offences accounted for a large percentage (57%) of the total youth court caseload. These were theft \$5,000 and under (15%), failure to comply with a disposition (12%) under the *Young Offenders Act* (YOA), failure to appear (11%), minor assault (10%) and breaking and entering (9%).
- Older youths, aged 16 and 17, were involved in half of the cases before youth courts (51%). Youth aged 15 were involved in 22% of cases while younger adolescents aged 12 to 14 years accounted for 25% of cases.
- Sixty percent of cases heard in youth court resulted in a conviction, compared to 67% in 1999/00.
- Probation was the most significant sentence in 48% of all cases with convictions while custody (open and secure) was ordered approximately one-third of the time.
- More than 80% of all youth court cases were concluded within six months. Half were settled within two months.
- Repeat offenders (defined as youths with at least one prior conviction) were involved in 21% of cases with convictions.



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Introduction

Providing effective treatment and rehabilitation of young offenders, and ensuring community safety are primary objectives of the youth justice system. The *Young Offenders Act* (YOA), proclaimed in 1984, introduced rights for adolescents previously guaranteed to adults only. It recognized the special needs that youths have as a result of their varying levels of maturity, the necessity for youths to accept responsibility for unlawful action and the right of society to protection from illegal behaviour. In February 2001, the Minister of Justice tabled in Parliament Bill C-7, the *Youth Criminal Justice Act* (YCJA). The proposed legislation is intended to replace the *Young Offenders Act*. Key objectives of the YCJA include: (a) reducing the use of the court by dealing with less serious cases effectively outside the court process; (b) fairness in sentencing; (c) reducing the high rate of youth incarceration; and (d) clearly distinguishing between serious violent offences and less serious offences.

This *Juristat* presents case-based¹ data from the Youth Court Survey (YCS) which is conducted by the Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics (CCJS) in collaboration with provincial and territorial government departments responsible for youth courts. The YCS collects data from youth courts on persons aged 12 to 17, at the time of the offence, appearing on federal statute offences. In this report, federal statute offences include *Criminal Code* offences, *Drug* offences, offences against the *Young Offenders Act* (YOA), and all *Other federal statute* offences. All youth courts in Canada have reported to the YCS since 1991/92.

The YCS, through the collection and dissemination of youth court information, continues to assist administrators, research, policy-makers and program managers as they redefine the nature of Canada's youth justice system. As not all youth crime is reported to police and not all youths in conflict with the law proceed to court, the YCS focuses on the court process and the response to youth crime rather than the prevalence of youth criminal activity.² These data should therefore not be used as an indicator of total youth criminal activity.

Five Year Trends

Decline in cases before youth courts

In the last five years, the number of cases heard in youth courts has generally followed a downward trend; the 99,590 cases processed in 2000/01 represent a drop of 10% from 1996/97 (Table 1).

Marked drop in the number of *Property crime* cases

A decrease of 23% in the number of *Property crime* cases from 1996/97 to 2000/01 is primarily responsible for the overall decline in the youth court cases during that period (Figure 1). The number of *Property crime* cases decreased markedly for several major offence groups: breaking and entering (-35%), possession of stolen property (-31%), and theft (-22%).

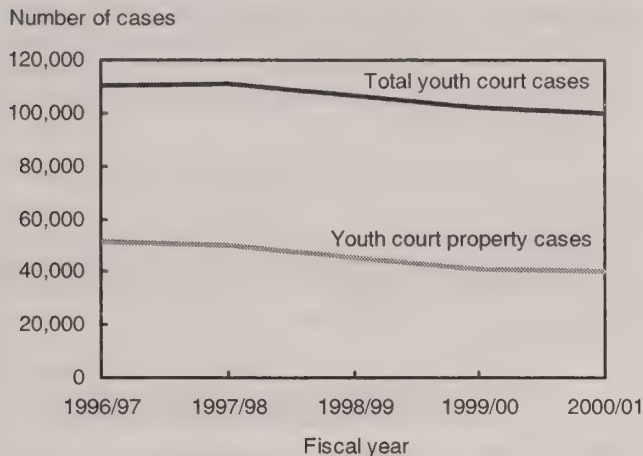
Overall, youth *Violent crime* cases have decreased by 6% from 1996/97 to 2000/01. However, large increases over the five years were noted for assaulting a peace officer (23%) and assault with a weapon (7%). Minor assault cases (which accounted for 46% of the *Violent crime* caseload) have decreased 11% since 1996/97. Notable decreases occurred with regard to sexual assault (-9%) and robbery (-8%).

¹ See the methodology section for the definition of a case and other key concepts related to the YCS and this *Juristat*.

² Refer to *Juristat* Vol. 21 no. 8 "Crime Statistics in Canada, 2000" for counts of youths charged by police.

Figure 1

The number of property cases continues to steadily decrease since 1996/97



Source: Youth Court Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics.

While most offences under the *Other Criminal Code* offence category experienced declines, increases occurred in some administrative offence cases. For example, the number of youth 'failure to appear' cases has increased by 7% since 1996/97, while cases heard under the *Young Offenders Act* increased by 10%. The number of *Drug-related offence* cases increased 30% since 1996/97. Narcotic possession and trafficking, which make up 72% and 28% respectively of total *Drug-related offence* cases, have increased 54% and 30% respectively since 1996/97.

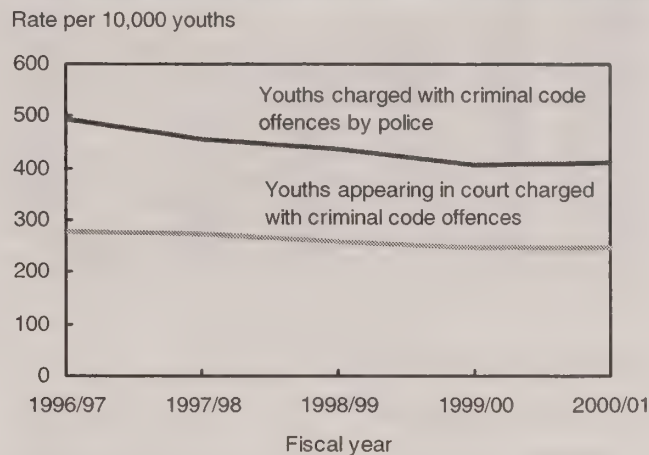
Rate of youths charged by police increases slightly

Youth court caseloads reflect police charging. That is, the composition and distribution of offences are largely determined by the incidents that come to the attention of the police and result in formal charges. However, due to post-charge alternative measures programs, some young offenders

are diverted away from the criminal justice system into informal ways of dealing with the offence. For example, in 2000 the rate of youths per 10,000 aged 12 to 17 charged with criminal offences increased slightly (1%)³, while the youth court case rate decreased by 3% (Figure 2).

Figure 2

The trends in police and court data reflect decreasing involvement of youths in the criminal justice system



Source: Youth Court Survey and Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics.

Inter-jurisdictional comparisons

Differences across the country in the reporting of criminal incidents to police, in procedures and eligibility requirements for police diversion and alternative measures programs, and differences in provincial policy directing Crown discretion may influence the volume and characteristics of cases heard in

³ Refer to Juristat Vol. 21 no. 8 "Crime Statistics in Canada, 2000" for rates of youths charged by police.

Box 1

Youth and Youth Crime in Context

| | |
|--|---|
| Population – 2000 ¹ | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> total Canadian population was 31.1 million with 2.47 million youths aged 12 to 17 years (8% of total) over the next decade, using an assumption of medium growth, the youth population aged 14 to 17 is expected to increase slightly until 2006, and then decline |
| Persons charged by police in 2000 ² | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 481,818 adults and youths were charged with federal offences, excluding traffic crimes 100,861 (21%) of these were youths |
| Cases processed in youth court, 2000/01 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 99,590 cases were heard in youth courts in 2000/01 this represents a drop of 10% from 1996/97 |
| Convictions in court, 2000/01 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 60,041 cases resulted in a conviction in 2000/01 this represents a 7% drop from 1999/00 |

¹ Postcensal estimates as of July 1st, 2001, Demography Division, Census and Demographic Statistics Branch, Statistics Canada.

² Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, 2000, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

youth courts. For example, Alternative Measures programs, intended to be alternatives to formal judicial proceedings for youths, differ among the jurisdictions with regard to eligibility criteria (e.g., they may be restricted to first-time offenders), timing (i.e., pre-charge or post-charge) and coverage (e.g., they commonly involve less serious crimes only). Pre-charge screening by the Crown is mandatory in New Brunswick, Quebec, and British Columbia. Processes such as these serve to keep less serious cases out of the court process and therefore, reduce court workload. These are examples of factors to be considered when making inter-jurisdictional comparisons.

The national rate of youth court cases shows a gradual decline from 455 cases per 10,000 youths in 1996/97 to 403 in 2000/01 (Table 2). This same trend is found in Prince Edward Island, the Yukon, Ontario and Nova Scotia where the rate dropped by 55%, 30%, 21% and 13% respectively. In most other jurisdictions, however, the rate tended to fluctuate annually with no discernible pattern. With the exception of a 7% increase in Saskatchewan, all jurisdictions showed an overall decrease in youth court case rates between 1996/97 and 2000/01.

Case Characteristics

Composition of cases

In 2000/01 the types of cases processed in youth courts most often involved *Property crimes* (40%), *Violent crimes* (22%) and *Other Criminal Code offences* (18%), which include offences such as failure to appear in court and escaping custody. Less frequent were cases involving offences under the *Young Offenders Act* (12%), *Drug-related offences* (7%) and *Other federal statute offences* (<1%).

Box 2

Cases by Principal Offence Category, 2000/01

| | Number of cases | % of total cases |
|--------------------------------|-----------------|------------------|
| Property crimes | 40,023 | 40 |
| Violent crimes | 21,760 | 22 |
| Other Criminal Code offences | 18,264 | 18 |
| YOA offences | 12,447 | 12 |
| Drug-related offences | 6,967 | 7 |
| Other federal statute offences | 129 | < 1 |
| Total | 99,590 | 100 |

Source: Youth Court Survey, 2000/01, CCJS.

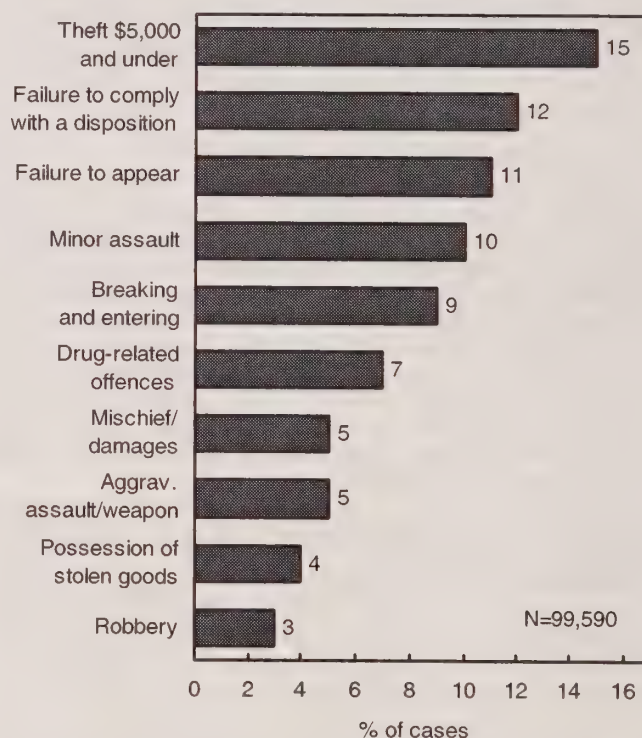
with a court disposition under YOA offences (12%), failure to appear in court under *Other Criminal Code* offences (11%), and minor assaults under violent offences which accounted for 10% of the total number of cases.

As can be seen in Figure 3, a very small number of offences accounted for a large proportion of the caseload. Together, the five types of offences mentioned above represented 57% of the caseload. In terms of frequency, these few offences far outranked all others.

Figure 3

Few offences accounted for a large proportion of the caseload

Principal charge



Source: Youth Court Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics.

Minor assaults accounted for almost one half of Violent offence cases

While minor assaults⁴ accounted for 10% of the total caseload, they made up 46% of all *Violent crimes*. Murder, manslaughter and attempted murder cases together accounted for less than one-half of one percent of *Violent crime* cases heard in youth courts. There were 29 cases of murder, 16 cases of manslaughter, and 39 cases of attempted murder in 2000/01.

⁴ Refers to the least serious form of assault that includes pushing, slapping, punching and face-to-face verbal threats.

Half of youth court cases involve 16 and 17-year olds

Sixteen and 17-year olds appear more often in youth court than other age groups. In 2000/01, 16-year olds accounted for 25% of cases and 17-year olds made up 26%. Fifteen-year old young offenders represented the next most frequent age group, appearing in 22% of cases, while young offenders aged 12, 13 and 14 showed proportionately less involvement, accounting for 3%, 7% and 15% of cases, respectively (Table 3).

Males account for eight in ten youth court cases

Males accounted for eight in ten youth court cases and they predominated in all age groups. The proportion of cases against males increased with age, while cases against 15-year old females accounted for the largest proportion of cases against females. Among males, 16 and 17-year olds accounted for 54% of cases, while the comparable figure for females was 42% (Figure 4).

Decisions in Youth Court

Sixty percent of youth court cases result in a conviction

Cases resulting in a conviction (a finding of guilt for at least one charge) accounted for 60% of cases disposed in youth court in 2000/01 (Table 4). Cases were stayed or withdrawn in 36% of cases, and another 4% resulted in findings of not guilty or dismissal. These proportions have remained virtually unchanged since 1996/97.

Revisions to the YOA in 1995 made transfers to adult court the standard response for serious violent crime cases involving 16 and 17-year olds, unless otherwise ruled by the court. This provision applies to murder (first or second degree), manslaughter, attempted murder and aggravated sexual assault. For these offences, the onus is on the accused to make an application to stay in youth court. For other crimes, the Crown or defence counsel must apply for transfer to adult court. The condition stipulated in the Act for these transfers specify a minimum age requirement of 14 years. Transfers to adult court accounted for less than one-tenth of one percent of the 2000/01 caseload.

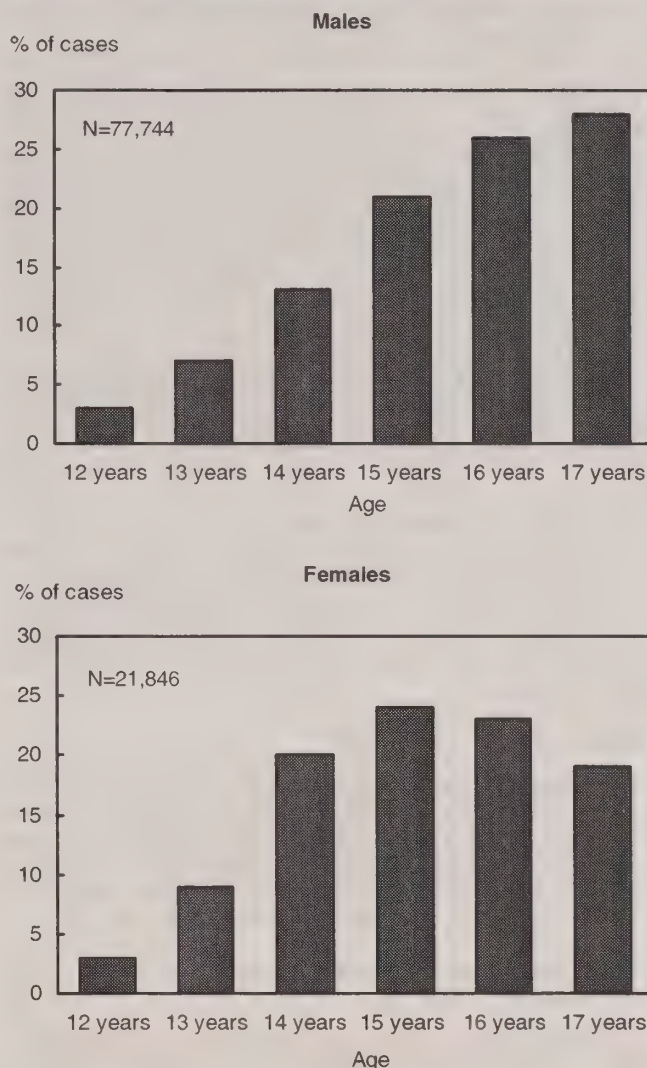
Of the 86 cases transferred to adult court in 2000/01, 48 involved *Violent crimes* and 17 were for *Property crimes*. The remaining 21 cases fell under *Other Criminal Code offences*, *Young Offenders Act*, and *Drug-related offences*. Of the 48 cases involving *Violent crimes*, 18 were for murder, manslaughter and attempted murder. While young offenders aged 17 were involved in 26% of total cases, they accounted for 57% of transfers to adult court.

Conviction rates vary considerably from one jurisdiction to another

The proportion of cases resulting in a conviction ranged from approximately 44% in the Yukon to 87% in New Brunswick (Table 4). The proportions of charges withdrawn or stayed tend to vary considerably across the country. These variations can be explained in part by differences in charging practices.

Figure 4

While male court activity continues to increase, for females, court activity peaks at age 15



Note: Excludes 1,946 cases (2.0%), where the offender was older than 17 or the age was unknown, or in rare cases where the young offender was <12 years old.

Source: Youth Court Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics.

High proportions of cases stayed or withdrawn are often indicative of charges set aside pending completion of alternative measures programs, or the systematic use of these decisions for administrative purposes.

The conviction rate varied somewhat among offence categories. Offences against the *Young Offenders Act* had the highest conviction rate (73%), while *Violent, Other Criminal Code and Drug-related offences* recorded the lowest proportion of guilty verdicts (58%). There was considerable variation within each offence category.

Conviction rates are lower for females

The conviction rate was substantially lower for females than for males in three offence categories; *Other federal statute* offences (35 percentage points lower), *Property crimes* (16 percentage points lower) and *Drug-related* offences (14 percentage points lower).

Box 3

Conviction Rates by Sex, 2000/01

| Most significant charge | % | | |
|--------------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| | Total | Male | Female |
| Total offences | 60 | 62 | 54 |
| Violent crimes | 58 | 58 | 57 |
| Property crimes | 59 | 62 | 46 |
| Other Criminal Code offences | 58 | 59 | 55 |
| Drug-related offences | 58 | 60 | 46 |
| Young Offenders Act | 73 | 73 | 75 |
| Other federal statute offences | 70 | 77 | 42 |

Source: Youth Court Survey, 2000/01, CCJS.

For the *Young Offenders Act* category, the conviction rate for females was slightly higher than that for males. Within the *Property crimes* category, the difference in conviction rates for females was more pronounced for theft (19 percentage points lower), possession of stolen property (12 percentage points lower) and breaking and entering (10 percentage points lower).

Sentencing in Youth Court

Some factors considered by judges in sentencing include the type of offence committed, the circumstances in which the offence was committed and the criminal history of the offender. In the case of a custody sentence under section 24(1) of the YOA, "the protection of society" and "the needs and circumstances of the young person" are also considered.

Most youth court sentences are served in the community

In 2000/01, probation was the most significant sentence in almost one-half, (48%) of cases with convictions (Table 5). Custody (34%) was the next most frequent sentence, comprising secure custody (17%), and open custody (17%). These sentences were followed by community service (7%), fines (6%), absolute discharge (2%) and other sentences (3%). The distribution of most significant sentence types has varied little since 1996/97.

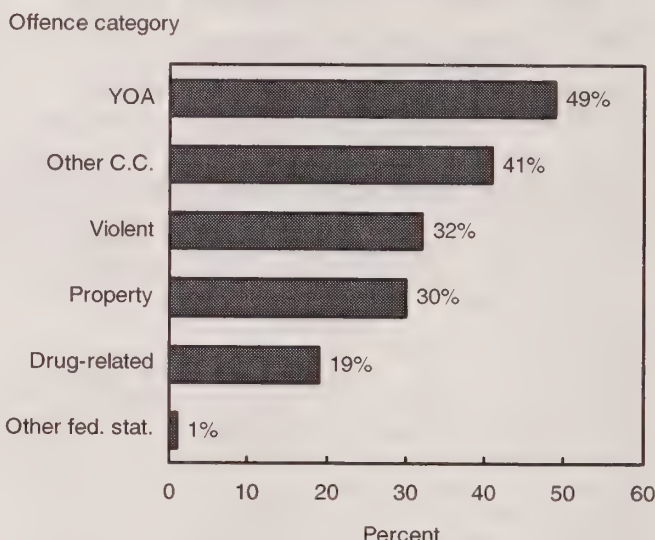
Because sentencing information is generally presented by most serious or significant sentence, the use of some sentence types appears low relative to others when multiple sentences are imposed by the courts. In 2000/01, 52% of all cases with a conviction gave rise to one sentence, 35% resulted in two sentences, and 13% resulted in three or more sentences.

Offences against the Young Offenders Act are more likely to result in a term of custody

Figure 5 shows that within offence categories, cases involving offences against the *Young Offenders Act* (49%) and *Other Criminal Code* offences (41%) have the highest proportion of cases with custody as the most significant sentence. Within the *Young Offenders Act* offence category, the great majority of cases involved failure to comply with a disposition, and in the *Other Criminal Code* offences category, it is administrative offences which were responsible for the higher proportion of custody sentences. These included escape from custody/being unlawfully at large (89%) and failure to appear/comply with a disposition/breach of recognizance (42%).

Figure 5

Proportion of cases resulting in a custody sentence by type of offence



Source: Youth Court Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics.

Although cases involving *Violent crimes* and *Property crimes* were less likely to result in a custody sentence, certain offences within these categories were more likely to receive such a sentence, particularly murder/manslaughter (94%) and attempted murder (62%).

Probation more likely for violent crimes

Probation was most often ordered in *Violent crime* cases (59%), specifically those involving sexual assault/other sexual offences (66%), minor assault (63%) and aggravated assault/assault with a weapon (59%). As well, *Drug offence* cases and *Property* cases more often resulted in probation (56% and 55% respectively). Within the *Property crimes* category, cases involving mischief/damage (61%) and fraud/forgery (57%) were the most likely to result in a probation sentence.

Impaired operation offences had the highest proportion of fines imposed (58%). Of all types of offences, theft \$5,000 and under and failure to comply with a disposition cases had the highest proportion with a community service order (10%).

Females more likely than males to receive probation

While one-half of convictions ended in a term of probation overall, females were more likely than males to receive probation as the most significant sentence in 2000/01 (54% versus 47%). The differences between male and female young offenders were also apparent in custody sentences. Thirty-six percent of cases involving males ended in a term of custody compared to 28% for females. Differences in other types of sentences were slight.

The use of custody varies widely across Canada

The use of secure custody ranged from 1% of cases with convictions in Nova Scotia to 30% in the Northwest Territories (Table 6). The proportion of cases with convictions resulting in open custody was highest in Prince Edward Island and Nova Scotia (both 35%) and lowest in Alberta (10%) and Quebec (12%). The combined use of open and secure custody ranged from just over one-quarter of cases in Alberta (26%) to well over one-half of convictions in the Northwest Territories (57%). Indeed, in the Northwest Territories, the proportion of total custody orders was higher than the percentage of probation orders imposed (32%). The same was true of the Yukon (52% of cases receiving custody, 36% receiving probation) and PEI (50% receiving custody and 39% receiving probation). The availability and capacity of custodial facilities may have an impact on the use of custody orders across the country.

Sentence lengths

Under the YOA, the maximum length for secure or open custody sentences is generally two years. However, this sentence can be three years if the crime would normally carry a maximum penalty of life imprisonment in adult court. In addition, the most serious crimes (first or second degree murder) carry higher sentences. First-degree murder carries a maximum custodial sentence of six years, followed by four years of conditional supervision. Second-degree murder carries a maximum four-year custodial term followed by three years of conditional supervision. However, not all murder cases first heard in youth court are sentenced in youth court as the YOA transfer provisions to adult court would apply.

Box 4

Sentence Review

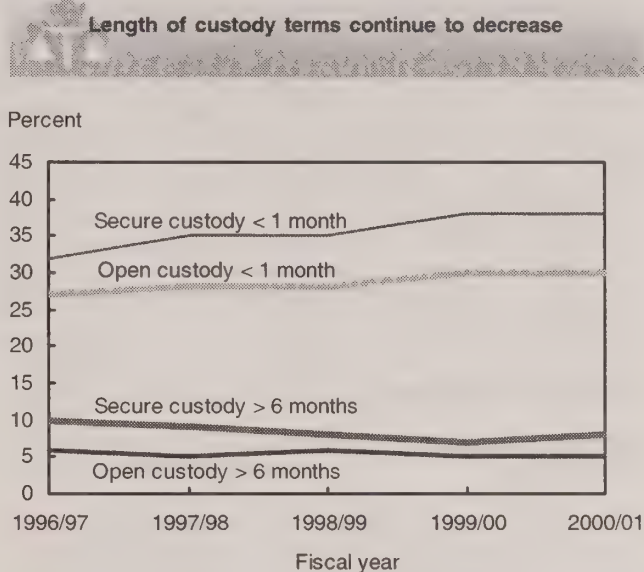
The length of sentence ordered by the court may be subject to revision under conditions stipulated in the *Young Offenders Act*. The court must review all custodial sentences after one year and may reduce the term or type of disposition at that time. Otherwise, the initial sentence ordered is to be served. There is no parole or statutory release in the *Young Offenders Act*. Sentences are subject to review upon request by the parent or young offender, although permission must be granted by the court if less than six months have been served. The principal correctional service administrator (Provincial Director) may ask the court for a review hearing if a revision to the sentence would be in the youth's best interest.

The majority of custodial sentences are for three months or less

Of the 20,809 cases resulting in a custodial sentence (open and secure) in 2000/01, 34% were for terms of less than one month, 44% were from 1 to 3 months, 15% from 4 to 6 months, and 6% were for more than 6 months.⁵ The proportion of cases with short custodial sentences (three months or less) increased from 75% of cases with convictions in 1996/97 to 79% in 2000/01.

Of the cases resulting in open custody in 1996/97, 27% were for terms of less than one month, compared to 30% in 2000/01. For secure custody cases, the proportion with orders of less than one month increased from 32% to 38% during the same period (Figure 6).

Figure 6



Source: Youth Court Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics.

In 2000/01, the median sentence length for cases resulting in secure custody was 30 days, while for open custody, it was slightly longer, at 34 days.

Most probation terms are 12 months or less

Under the YOA, youth courts may sentence a young offender to probation for a maximum of two years. In 2000/01, the median sentence length for a probation sentence was 1 year. Of the 29,053 cases resulting in a term of probation as the most significant sentence, 22% were for a period of 6 months or less, 56% ranged from 7 to 12 months, and 22% were for more than 12 months.

⁵ The YCS cannot distinguish between consecutive and concurrent sentences and does not include sentencing revisions made under review by the court. In multiple sentence cases, for example, the sentence length may be underestimated because of the assumption of concurrent sentences for all charges and may not reflect actual time ordered.

One-half of fines are \$100 or less

Under the YOA, a young offender may be ordered to pay a fine not exceeding \$1,000. In 2000/01, 3,502 cases or 6% of convictions ended in a fine as the most significant sentence. Fines in the \$100 to \$500 range were most often ordered (45%), followed by fines in the \$50 to \$100 range (39%), less than \$50 (10%) and over \$500 (6%). The median dollar amount of fines was \$125.

Case Processing

One-half of all cases are processed in two months or less

The successful rehabilitation of a young offender is often reliant on a prompt court process. In 2000/01, one-half of all cases were processed in two months or less (from the time of the youth's first court appearance to the date of decision or sentencing), with only 17% of cases taking longer than six months. In fact, 17% of cases were completed at the first court appearance. The median elapsed time for all cases was 60 days. Manitoba had the longest median elapsed time at 91 days, followed by Alberta (84 days), Saskatchewan (82 days) and Nova Scotia (78 days).

In 2000/01, 58% of cases involved only one charge, 23% had two charges, 9% three charges and 10% had more than three charges. The number of charges did not seem to have a significant impact on the median amount of time taken to process a case in court.

Repeat offenders

Repeat offenders are involved in one third of convictions

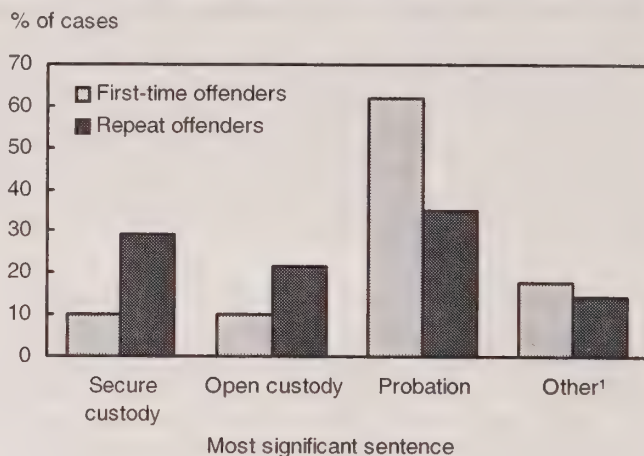
In 2000/01, approximately 21% of cases with convictions involved repeat offenders.⁶ In comparison to first-time offenders, repeat offenders tended to be brought to court more often for *Property crimes* and less often for *Violent crimes*. In 2000/01, of the cases in which repeat offenders were involved, 53% were *Property* offences cases and 24% were *Violent* offence cases. Comparable figures for first-time offenders were 47% and 29% respectively. The use of police diversion and alternative measures programs for first-time property crime offenders may have contributed to this difference.

Males tend to re-offend at a higher rate than females. In 22% of convicted cases involving males in 2000/01, the young offender had been previously convicted; the corresponding figure for female offenders was 17%.

Unlike repeat offenders, first-time offenders were more likely to be given a term of probation (Figure 7). In 2000/01, 62% of convictions for first-time young offenders ended in probation compared to 35% for repeat offenders. Repeat offenders were over two times more likely to be ordered to serve a term of custody (51%) than were first-time offenders (20%). This wide gap was apparent for both *Violent crime* cases (59% of convictions resulting in custody for repeat offenders versus 24% for first-time offenders) and *Property crime* cases (50% versus 18%).

Figure 7

Repeat offenders are three times more likely than first-time offenders to serve terms of custody and much less likely to receive probation



¹ Other includes all other sentences.

Source: Youth Court Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics.

Methodology

The Youth Court Survey (YCS) is a census of *Criminal Code* and *Other federal statute* offences heard in youth court for persons aged 12 to 17 (up to the 18th birthday) at the time of the offence. Though every effort is made by respondents and the Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics (CCJS) to ensure complete survey coverage, slight under-coverage may occur in some jurisdictions.

The unit of analysis is the case, defined by the YCS as one or more charges laid against a young person first presented in a youth court on the same day. Case counts are categorized by the most significant charge, most significant decision and the most significant sentence. Consequently, less serious charges, decisions and sentences are under-represented.

The determination of the most significant charge at the beginning of court proceedings is by the ordering of charges from most to least serious. *Violent* charges are given first priority in the ordering process, followed by *Drug and narcotic* offences, *Property* offences, *Other Criminal Code* offences, offences under the *Young Offenders Act* (YOA), and *Other federal statute* offences. Offences are further ranked within these offence categories.

⁶ The information on repeat offenders, within jurisdictions, was obtained by selecting young offenders convicted in 2000/01 from the case file by date of sentencing and tracking any previous convictions for them from 1991/92 to 1999/00. The repeat offender analysis excludes Nova Scotia for all years, all offences under the YOA and post-disposition offences under the Criminal Code (e.g. failure to comply, unlawfully at large and escape). Because of this, the number of cases presented in this section does not correspond to the number of cases reported elsewhere in the Juristat.

Since a case with more than one charge may have more than one type of decision, the "most significant decision" has been selected for analysis on the basis of the following order from most to least serious: transfer to adult court; guilty; other decision (e.g., not fit to stand trial); stay of proceedings; charge withdrawn; or transfer to other jurisdiction; and not guilty or charge dismissed. The case is described by the most serious or "significant" charge in the case, which is associated with the court decision.

The most significant sentence is determined by the effect that the sentence has on the young person. Sentences are ordered from most to least significant as follows: secure custody, open custody, probation, fine, compensation, pay purchaser (a dollar amount paid back to the innocent purchaser of stolen goods), compensation in kind, community service order, restitution, prohibition/seizure/forfeiture, other sentences, conditional discharge and absolute discharge.

The reader is advised that the use of the decisions 'stay' and 'withdrawn' for administrative purposes (e.g., to reduce charges or to correct details on an information) vary by jurisdiction. To terminate and recommence a case for administrative purposes has been found to inflate the total number of cases reported to the Youth Court Survey. As much as 30% of the national caseload is stayed or withdrawn and a proportion of these are the result of administrative procedures. Ontario, Manitoba, Alberta, British Columbia and Yukon are most affected by this practice. Consequently the reader is encouraged, where possible, to analyze cases with guilty findings (convictions) to increase comparability among the jurisdictions.

Differences in data over time and across jurisdictions result from a number of factors that reflect how the YOA has been implemented. Pre-court screening procedures may affect the number of youth appearing in court. The Crown Attorney, for

example, may decide not to proceed with a charge, or the initial charge may be changed. Pre-charge screening by the Crown is mandatory in New Brunswick, Quebec and British Columbia. A youth may also be diverted from the court process into a program such as Alternative Measures (either before or after police lay charges) or a police diversion program.

Alternative Measures (AM) programs are generally reserved for first-time offenders and are often limited to specific types of less serious offences, although young offenders committing more serious offences can be considered for acceptance in the program in most jurisdictions. Except for New Brunswick, Ontario and Yukon, all AM programs are combined pre-and post-charge programs where the preferences, and the general practices, are to refer youths at the pre-charge stage (i.e. before charges are laid). In New Brunswick, the AM program operates at the pre-charge stage only. In Ontario, youths are only referred to AM programs at the post-charge stage (i.e. after charges are laid). In Yukon, the general practice is to refer youths to the AM program at the post-charge stage, although, on occasion, they may be referred at the pre-charge stage. Alternative measures cases are excluded from the Youth Court Survey data either in the jurisdiction or at the CCJS, if they are identified. Nevertheless, differences in procedures and eligibility requirements of these programs influence the volume and characteristics of cases heard in youth courts.

References

Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics. Logan, Ron. "Crime Statistics in Canada, 2000" *Juristat*. Catalogue no. 85-002-XIE, Vol. 21, no. 8. Ottawa: July, 2001.

Youth Court Survey, 2000/01, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

Table 1

Cases heard in Youth Courts by Principal Offence Category, Canada, 1996/97 to 2000/01

| Offence category | 1996/97 | 1997/98 | 1998/99 | 1999/00 | 2000/01 | % change from 1996/97 to 2000/01 |
|---|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|--|
| Total cases | | | | | | |
| number | 110,065 | 110,882 | 106,665 | 102,061 | 99,590 | |
| % change in the number of cases* | ... | 1% | -4% | -4% | -2% | -10% |
| Violent crimes | | | | | | |
| number | 23,044 | 23,711 | 23,564 | 22,937 | 21,760 | |
| % change in the number of cases* | ... | 3% | -1% | -3% | -5% | -6% |
| Property crimes | | | | | | |
| number | 51,767 | 49,602 | 45,566 | 41,122 | 40,023 | |
| % change in the number of cases* | ... | -4% | -8% | -10% | -3% | -23% |
| Other Criminal Code offences¹ | | | | | | |
| number | 18,285 | 19,316 | 19,421 | 18,718 | 18,264 | |
| % change in the number of cases* | ... | 6% | 1% | -4% | -2% | 0% |
| Drug-related offences | | | | | | |
| number | 5,353 | 4,549 | 4,716 | 5,394 | 6,967 | |
| % change in the number of cases* | ... | -15% | 4% | 14% | 29% | 30% |
| YOA offences | | | | | | |
| number | 11,335 | 13,442 | 13,289 | 13,763 | 12,447 | |
| % change in the number of cases* | ... | 19% | -1% | 4% | -10% | 10% |
| Other federal statute offences | | | | | | |
| number | 281 | 262 | 109 | 127 | 129 | |
| % change in the number of cases* | ... | -7% | -58% | 17% | 2% | -54% |

* refers to the previous year

... not applicable

¹ Includes cases involving traffic offences.

Source: Youth Court Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics.

Table 2

Cases before Youth Courts, Rate per 10,000 Youths, 1996/97 to 2000/01

Rate of cases per 10,000 youths

| | 1996/97 | 1997/98 | 1998/99 | 1999/00 | 2000/01 | % change from 1999/00 | % change from 1996/97 |
|---------------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Canada | 455 | 454 | 435 | 417 | 403 | -3 | -11 |
| Newfoundland and Labrador | 534 | 425 | 432 | 364 | 379 | 4 | -29 |
| Prince Edward Island | 377 | 311 | 268 | 271 | 170 | -37 | -55 |
| Nova Scotia | 470 | 459 | 419 | 412 | 407 | -1 | -13 |
| New Brunswick | 376 | 367 | 323 | 373 | 340 | -9 | -10 |
| Quebec | 196 | 189 | 201 | 196 | 182 | -7 | -7 |
| Ontario | 532 | 496 | 449 | 428 | 418 | -2 | -21 |
| Manitoba | 710 | 787 | 871 | 700 | 667 | -5 | -6 |
| Saskatchewan | 883 | 943 | 841 | 941 | 946 | 1 | 7 |
| Alberta | 643 | 654 | 671 | 614 | 632 | 3 | -2 |
| British Columbia | 346 | 415 | 369 | 364 | 304 | -17 | -12 |
| Yukon | 1,774 | 1,681 | 1,456 | 1,381 | 1,241 | -10 | -30 |
| Northwest Territories* | 1,097 | 978 | 1,211 | 1,009 | 817 | -19 | ... |
| Nunavut* ¹ | ... | ... | ... | 429 | 710 | 66 | ... |

* Due to the creation of Nunavut from the Northwest Territories, data collected prior to 1999/00 cannot be compared to data collected after that date for these jurisdictions

... figures not applicable or appropriate

¹ In data for fiscal year 1999/00, there is an unknown amount of undercoverage.

Source: Youth Court Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics.

Table 3

Cases Heard in Youth Court by Offence Category and Age, Canada, 2000/01

| Principal Offence Category | Total cases | < 12 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | > 17 | Unknown |
|-------------------------------------|---------------|----------|----------|----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|----------|----------|
| | | % | % | % | % | % | % | % | % | % |
| Total Offences | 99,590 | 0 | 3 | 7 | 15 | 22 | 25 | 26 | 1 | 1 |
| Violent Offences | 21,760 | 0 | 4 | 10 | 16 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 0 | 1 |
| Property Offences | 40,023 | 0 | 4 | 9 | 16 | 22 | 25 | 24 | 0 | 1 |
| Other Criminal Code Offences | 18,264 | 0 | 2 | 6 | 13 | 21 | 26 | 29 | 2 | 1 |
| Narcotic Control Act | 27 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 15 | 37 | 41 | 0 | 4 |
| Food and Drugs Act | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Controlled Drugs and Substances Act | 6,940 | 0 | 1 | 3 | 10 | 18 | 29 | 39 | 0 | 0 |
| Young Offenders Act | 12,447 | 0 | 1 | 5 | 14 | 23 | 26 | 26 | 4 | 1 |
| Other Federal Statutes | 129 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 11 | 22 | 25 | 40 | 1 | 0 |

Source: Youth Court Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics.

Table 4

Cases before Youth Courts by Most Significant Decision, 2000/01

| Jurisdiction | Total cases | Transfer to adult court | Guilty | Not guilty | Stayed | Dismissed | Withdrawn | Transfer to other jurisdiction | Other ¹ |
|---------------------------|---------------|-------------------------|-----------|------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|--------------------------------|--------------------|
| | | % | % | % | % | % | % | % | % |
| Canada | 99,590 | 0 | 60 | 1 | 12 | 3 | 23 | 0 | 0 |
| Newfoundland and Labrador | 1,704 | 0 | 81 | 0 | 5 | 3 | 11 | 0 | 0 |
| Prince Edward Island | 209 | 0 | 81 | 0 | 15 | 0 | 4 | 0 | 0 |
| Nova Scotia | 3,096 | 0 | 70 | 2 | 0 | 9 | 18 | 0 | 0 |
| New Brunswick | 2,041 | 0 | 87 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 11 | 0 | 0 |
| Quebec | 9,836 | 0 | 81 | 6 | 3 | 2 | 8 | 0 | 0 |
| Ontario | 39,451 | 0 | 48 | 0 | 13 | 3 | 36 | 0 | 0 |
| Manitoba | 6,662 | 0 | 58 | 0 | 40 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Saskatchewan | 8,960 | 0 | 64 | 0 | 12 | 4 | 19 | 0 | 0 |
| Alberta | 16,965 | 0 | 63 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 31 | 1 | 0 |
| British Columbia | 9,727 | 0 | 70 | 2 | 27 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Yukon | 359 | 0 | 44 | 1 | 36 | 11 | 8 | 1 | 0 |
| Northwest Territories | 333 | 0 | 79 | 0 | 5 | 1 | 15 | 0 | 0 |
| Nunavut | 247 | 0 | 68 | 1 | 5 | 0 | 26 | 0 | 0 |

¹ "Other" includes unfit to stand trial and other decisions.

Source: Youth Court Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics.

Table 5

Youth Court Cases with Convictions by the Most Significant Charge and Sentence¹, Canada, 2000/01

| Most significant charge | Total cases | Secure custody | Open custody | Probation | Fine | Community service | Absolute discharge | Other ² |
|---|---------------|----------------|--------------|-----------|-----------|-------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| | | % | % | % | % | % | % | % |
| Total offences | 60,041 | 17 | 17 | 48 | 6 | 7 | 2 | 3 |
| Violent crimes | 11,718 | 16 | 15 | 59 | 1 | 4 | 1 | 3 |
| Murder/manslaughter | 17 | 59 | 35 | 6 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Attempted murder | 13 | 54 | 8 | 31 | 0 | 8 | 0 | 0 |
| Robbery | 1,408 | 28 | 25 | 42 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 2 |
| Sexual assault/other sexual offences | 783 | 14 | 13 | 66 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 3 |
| Aggravated assault/assault with a weapon | 2,171 | 18 | 16 | 59 | 0 | 3 | 1 | 3 |
| Minor assault | 5,798 | 12 | 13 | 63 | 2 | 5 | 2 | 3 |
| Weapons/firearms/explosives | 1,071 | 17 | 14 | 58 | 3 | 4 | 3 | 3 |
| Other violence crimes | 457 | 21 | 18 | 53 | 1 | 3 | 1 | 4 |
| Property crimes | 23,369 | 15 | 15 | 55 | 4 | 7 | 2 | 3 |
| Breaking and entering | 5,857 | 18 | 20 | 56 | 1 | 3 | 0 | 2 |
| Taking a vehicle without consent | 1,098 | 16 | 15 | 56 | 4 | 5 | 2 | 2 |
| Theft over \$5,000 | 908 | 25 | 23 | 48 | 1 | 3 | 0 | 1 |
| Theft \$5,000 and under | 7,567 | 11 | 12 | 56 | 7 | 10 | 3 | 3 |
| Possession of stolen property | 3,061 | 19 | 18 | 49 | 4 | 7 | 1 | 2 |
| Fraud/forgery | 877 | 13 | 15 | 57 | 5 | 5 | 2 | 3 |
| Mischief/damage | 3,244 | 10 | 11 | 61 | 3 | 8 | 2 | 5 |
| Other property offences | 757 | 14 | 15 | 59 | 1 | 6 | 2 | 4 |
| Other Criminal Code offences | 11,266 | 23 | 18 | 39 | 9 | 6 | 2 | 4 |
| Failure to appear/comply/breach of recognizance | 6,417 | 21 | 21 | 39 | 7 | 7 | 2 | 3 |
| Escape custody/unlawfully at large | 1,205 | 63 | 26 | 7 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 0 |
| Impaired operation/other motor vehicle offences | 806 | 6 | 5 | 30 | 47 | 9 | 0 | 3 |
| Other Criminal Code offences | 2,838 | 14 | 11 | 54 | 6 | 6 | 2 | 7 |
| Drug-related offences | 3,794 | 9 | 10 | 56 | 12 | 5 | 5 | 3 |
| Young Offenders Act | 9,799 | 23 | 26 | 27 | 9 | 10 | 1 | 3 |
| Failure to comply with disposition | 9,642 | 23 | 26 | 27 | 10 | 10 | 1 | 3 |
| Other YOA offences | 157 | 30 | 32 | 24 | 1 | 4 | 1 | 8 |
| Other federal statute offences | 95 | 1 | 0 | 23 | 62 | 7 | 4 | 2 |

¹ Refers to the most significant charge which resulted in the sentence with the greatest impact on the young person.

² Includes restitution, prohibition, seizure, forfeiture, compensation, pay purchaser, essays, apologies, counseling programs and conditional discharge.

Source: Youth Court Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics.

Table 6

Sentences in Youth Courts, 2000/01

| | Most Significant Sentence | | | | | | | |
|---------------------------|---------------------------|----------------|--------------|-------------------------|-----------|----------|-------------------------|--------------------|
| | Total cases | Secure custody | Open custody | Secure and open custody | Probation | Fine | Community service order | Other ¹ |
| | | % | % | % | % | % | % | % |
| Canada | 60,041 | 17 | 17 | 35 | 48 | 6 | 7 | 5 |
| Newfoundland and Labrador | 1,381 | 25 | 17 | 41 | 52 | 2 | 1 | 3 |
| Prince Edward Island | 170 | 15 | 35 | 50 | 39 | 5 | 0 | 6 |
| Nova Scotia | 2,176 | 1 | 35 | 37 | 53 | 4 | 5 | 1 |
| New Brunswick | 1,780 | 20 | 14 | 35 | 57 | 6 | 0 | 3 |
| Quebec | 7,952 | 16 | 12 | 28 | 56 | 3 | 9 | 5 |
| Ontario | 18,919 | 19 | 21 | 41 | 47 | 3 | 4 | 4 |
| Manitoba | 3,846 | 21 | 14 | 35 | 47 | 7 | 5 | 7 |
| Saskatchewan | 5,707 | 21 | 14 | 34 | 49 | 4 | 10 | 3 |
| Alberta | 10,721 | 16 | 10 | 26 | 39 | 16 | 13 | 6 |
| British Columbia | 6,799 | 13 | 22 | 35 | 54 | 3 | 2 | 5 |
| Yukon | 157 | 27 | 25 | 52 | 36 | 4 | 4 | 4 |
| Northwest Territories | 264 | 30 | 27 | 57 | 32 | 5 | 6 | 0 |
| Nunavut | 169 | 14 | 17 | 30 | 62 | 1 | 1 | 7 |

¹ Other includes compensation, pay purchaser, compensation in kind, restitution, prohibition, seizure, forfeiture, conditional discharge, absolute discharge, essays, apologies and counselling programs.

Source: Youth Court Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics.

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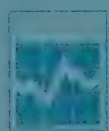
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CRIMINAL VICTIMIZATION: AN INTERNATIONAL PERSPECTIVE

Results of the 2000 International Crime Victimization Survey

by Sandra Besserer

Highlights

- On average for 13 of the industrialized countries that participated in the 2000 International Crime Victimization Survey (ICVS), 22% of the population aged 16 and older in those countries were victims of at least one of 11 offences in the previous year. Canada's figure was near the average, at 24%.
- Between 1996, the last time the ICVS was conducted, and 2000, victimization rates were fairly stable. Of the ten countries that participated in both survey cycles, six, including Canada, did not experience any significant change in victimization rates. The remaining four countries experienced a decrease in their overall victimization rate.
- Of the 11 crimes measured by the ICVS, the most prevalent in 2000 was car vandalism. On average for the 13 countries, 7% of the population was a victim of this crime. The next most common crime was theft from car, at 5%.
- On average for the 11 crimes, just over one-half of incidents were reported to police in 2000. The figures ranged from a high of 65% for Scotland to a low of 39% for Japan, with Canada's figure near the lower end at 49%. Many incidents were not reported because the victim did not believe they were serious.
- In 2000, a majority of people in each of the 13 countries felt very or fairly safe when walking alone in their area after dark. Figures were highest for Sweden (85% of the population), followed by Canada (83%) and the United States (83%). People in Australia and Poland were least likely to feel safe (64% for each). In four countries, including Canada, there has been an increase in the proportion of the population that feels safe when walking alone at night.
- Satisfaction with police performance is quite high, particularly in the United States and Canada. In 2000, 89% of Americans and 87% of Canadians felt that the police were doing a very or fairly good job at controlling crime in their area, the highest figures among the 13 countries. Canadians and Americans were also most likely to believe that police do everything they can to help people and be of service.
- When asked to decide on a sentence for a burglar convicted for a second time, the majority of people in eight countries, including Canada, preferred a non-prison sanction. Leading the way were France, where 84% of the population preferred a non-prison sanction, and Finland with a figure of 79%. Canada's figure was 52%.
- Canadians do appear to have grown more punitive in their attitudes toward sentencing. In 1989, less than one-third (32%) of the population felt that prison would be an appropriate sentence for a recidivist burglar. This figure climbed to 39% in 1992, 43% in 1996 and 45% in 2000. People in seven other countries also appear to have become harsher in their attitudes.
- In 2000, a majority of households in 11 of the countries used at least one type of security measure, including: a burglar alarm, special door locks, special window/door grills, a dog, a high fence, a neighbourhood watch scheme or a caretaker/security guard. The one exception was Poland, where 40% of households used one of these devices.



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Introduction

In Canada, information on crime is obtained in two ways: through police-reported surveys such as the Uniform Crime Reporting Survey and through victim-reported surveys such as the 1999 General Social Survey on Victimization. Likewise in other countries, including the United States, the United Kingdom and others, there are both police-reported and victim-reported surveys. Unfortunately, the results of these surveys are very difficult to compare across countries because survey concepts, definitions, scope and methods are quite different from one survey to the next.

To provide comparable information on the nature and extent of crime around the world, the International Crime Victimization Survey (ICVS) was undertaken in 1989. This survey asks respondents for detailed information on 11 types of crime (see Box 1), including when, where and how often offences occurred over the previous five years; whether offences were reported to the police; and whether victimization experiences were considered serious. Participants are also asked for their opinions on public safety, policing and sentencing.

Since first being implemented in 1989, the ICVS has been conducted a total of four times. Other cycles were carried out in 1992, 1996 and, most recently, in 2000. Canada is among the 17 industrialized countries that participated in 2000 and Canada, England & Wales, Finland, Netherlands and the United States are the only five industrialized countries to have participated in all four cycles of the survey. The ICVS has also been conducted at the city-level in a number of non-industrialized countries, including about 20 such countries in 2000. Altogether, over 60 countries have participated at least once since 1989.

Through the use of a standard questionnaire, standard procedures in conducting the survey¹ and standard techniques for producing the results, the ICVS has been able to address many of the problems that arise in comparing data from various national sources. One drawback of the survey is that to keep costs down and encourage participation by as many countries as possible, sample sizes have been kept modest. The number of respondents per country is less than 6,000 and averages about 2,000. This means that the survey results are subject to fairly large sampling errors. Despite this shortcoming, the ICVS provides a unique opportunity to make international comparisons regarding experiences of crime and public opinion of justice issues. (See Methodology section for more detail on the ICVS.)

The purpose of this *Juristat* is to present the results of the 2000 ICVS and to make comparisons to the previous survey cycles. The majority of the analysis will focus on 13 of the 17 industrialized countries that participated, i.e. Canada, Australia, Belgium, England & Wales, Finland, France, Japan, Netherlands, Northern Ireland, Poland, Scotland, Sweden, and the United States. Catalonia (a region of Spain), Denmark and Portugal are being excluded because they have participated only once and thus no trend data are available. Switzerland is being excluded because some key information was not collected in 2000.

Prevalence of victimization

Rates for 2000

On average,² for the 17 industrialized countries that participated in the 2000 ICVS, 21% of people aged 16 and older were victims of at least one of the 11 offences in the previous year (Figure 1).³ The average for the 13 countries that are the focus of this *Juristat* was 22%. The one-year victimization rate ranged from 15% for Northern Ireland up to 30% for Australia. Canada's rate of 24% was in the upper third of the group of countries.

¹ There are some slight variations in survey procedures. For example, in 3 of the 13 countries that are the focus of this *Juristat*, interviews were conducted face-to-face rather than by telephone.

² This is a simple average over the 17 countries, with each country getting equal importance and not being weighted by its population size; all subsequent averages for any group of countries are calculated in the same way.

³ For ease of presentation, the one-year victimization rates for the 2000 ICVS will be referred to as if they pertained to the year 2000. In reality, the victimization incidents took place in 1999.

Box 1: Offence types

The ICVS captures information on 11 different offences. A number of criteria were used to select these offences, including: the offence has individuals as victims; the offence can be described in terms that respondents understand; and the offence has a similar meaning in all countries. In Canada, these 11 offences account for a fairly large proportion of incidents reported to police (roughly 55% of all *Criminal Code* incidents in 2000).

| Crime categories used used in <i>Juristat</i> | ICVS Offences | Description |
|---|-------------------------------|---|
| Violent | 1. Robbery | Theft or attempted theft in which the perpetrator used or threatened to use force against the victim. |
| | 2. Sexual assault | Forced sexual activity, an attempt at forced sexual activity, or unwanted sexual touching or grabbing. (Not asked of men, except in Canada and Australia.) |
| | 3. Assault | An attack or threat of an attack. |
| Household burglary | 4. Burglary ⁴ | Illegal entry into the respondent's home. |
| | 5. Attempted Burglary | Attempted illegal entry into the respondent's home. |
| Motor vehicle theft | 6. Theft of car | Theft of a car, truck, or van belonging to a member of the household. |
| | 7. Theft of motorcycle | Theft of a motorcycle, moped or scooter belonging to a member of the household. |
| Other theft | 8. Theft of personal property | Theft of personal property such as money, credit cards, clothing, jewellery, a purse or a wallet. (Unlike robbery, the perpetrator does not confront the victim.) |
| | 9. Theft from car | Theft of a car radio, car part (e.g. mirror or wheel), or something left in a car belonging to a household member. |
| | 10. Theft of bicycle | Theft of a bicycle belonging to a member of the household. |
| Car vandalism | 11. Car vandalism | Willful damage of a car, truck or van belonging to a household member. |

⁴ In Canada, burglary is more commonly referred to as "break and enter".

In the previous five years, results of the 2000 ICVS indicate that on average for the 17 industrialized countries, one-half of the population was victimized. The figures ranged from 36% for Portugal up to 66% for Australia. Canada's figure was 54%. The rankings of the countries for the five-year rates were quite similar to those for the one-year rates.

Trends in rates

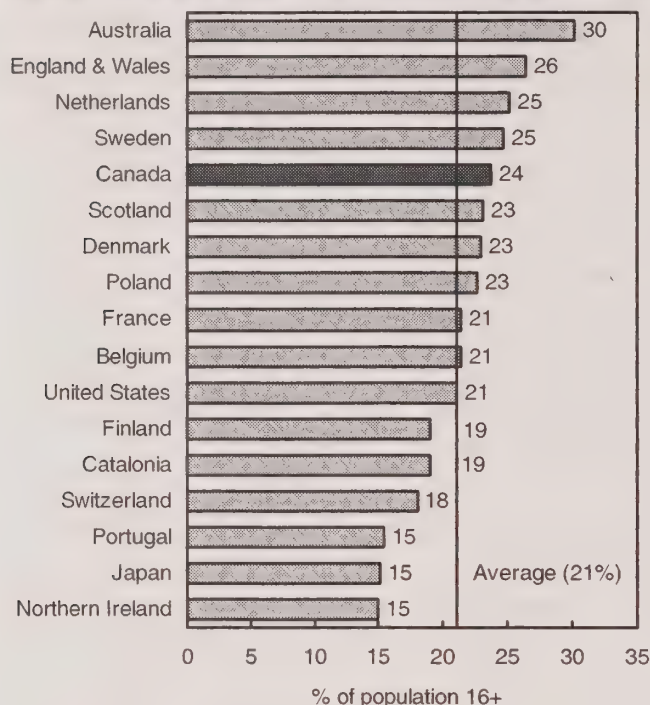
Trends in overall victimization for the 13 countries that are the focus of this *Juristat* are provided in Table 1. Looking at the results for 1996 and 2000, victimization rates appear to be fairly stable. Six of the 10 countries that participated in both cycles did not experience any significant⁵ change in their victimization rate. Canada is among this group. The four remaining countries (England & Wales, France, Netherlands, and Scotland) experienced a decrease in rates.

Over a longer time frame, beginning in 1989 when the survey was first conducted, there is no consistent pattern in the trend for victimization rates and many of the changes that occurred are not statistically significant. It does appear, however, that there is a downward trend in Canada, Poland and the U.S., while for Belgium and Sweden the trend is upward. Rates in Australia and Northern Ireland appear to be unchanged. As for the remaining countries, it is difficult to draw any conclusions about the direction of the trend — victimization rates have increased in one cycle, then decreased the next.

Between 1992 and 2000, the ICVS indicates that Canada's victimization rate decreased. In contrast, over a somewhat different time period (1993 to 1999), Canada's national victimization survey, the General Social Survey (GSS) on Victimization, shows that the rate of victimization was virtually unchanged. There could be a number of explanations for this difference. First, the time frames are different and the change is based on just two points in time. Over a longer time frame, the trends might be more alike. Second, the GSS covers a broader range of offences. In particular, the GSS measures all forms of vandalism, not just car vandalism. It also measures theft of all household property, an offence that is not fully covered by the ICVS. Third, the survey methodologies are quite different. For example, the GSS asks about incidents that occurred in the previous 12 months, whereas the ICVS asks about victimization during the previous year and the previous five years. (See Besserer and Trainor 2000 for more information on the 1999 GSS). Police reported data, which are available on a yearly basis, show a trend that is more consistent with the ICVS results. The Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Survey indicates that Canada's crime rate has been falling since the early 1990's. In 2000, the crime rate declined 1%, the ninth consecutive yearly decrease.

⁵ Throughout this *Juristat*, the use of the term "significant" indicates there is statistical significance ($p \leq .1$).

Figure 1

Australia has the highest victimization rate, 2000¹

¹ Based on persons who were victims of at least one of 11 crime types in the previous year.

Source: International Crime Victimization Survey, 2000.

Rates by offence type

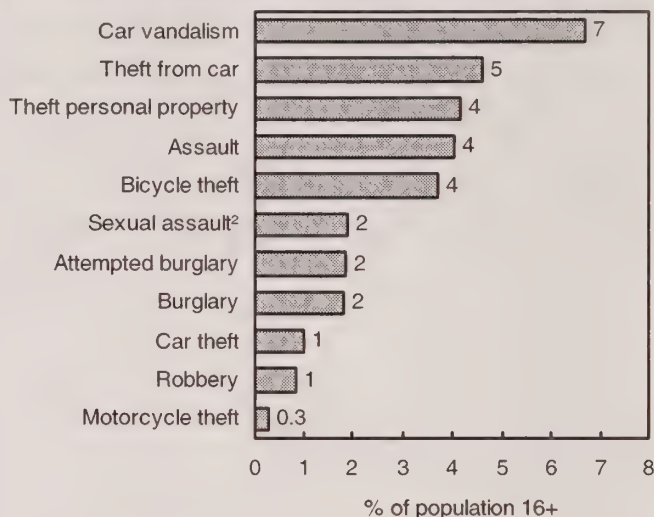
The most prevalent offence in 2000 was car vandalism. On average for the 13 countries, 7% of the population was victimized (Figure 2). The next most common crime was theft from car, at 5%. In 1996, the findings were similar; the most prevalent offence was car vandalism (average rate of 7% of population victimized), followed by theft from car (6%).⁶

Rates by country for the five offence groups are provided in Table 2. The results are fairly consistent with the overall rates of victimization. Australia, which had the highest overall rate, had relatively high rates for violent offences, household burglary and car vandalism. England & Wales, which had the second highest overall victimization rate, also had high rates for these three offence categories. Sweden had one of the highest rates for "other theft", due primarily to its high rate of bicycle theft.

Offence seriousness

In 2000, victims of car theft were most likely to consider the crime serious. On average, for the 13 countries, 84% of car theft victims felt their most recent incident over the previous five years was very or fairly serious (Figure 3). Car theft led

Figure 2

Car vandalism the most prevalent offence, 2000¹

¹ Based on the average one-year victimization rate for 13 countries.

² Based on the percentage of women, since information not collected for men other than in Australia and Canada.

Source: International Crime Victimization Survey, 2000.

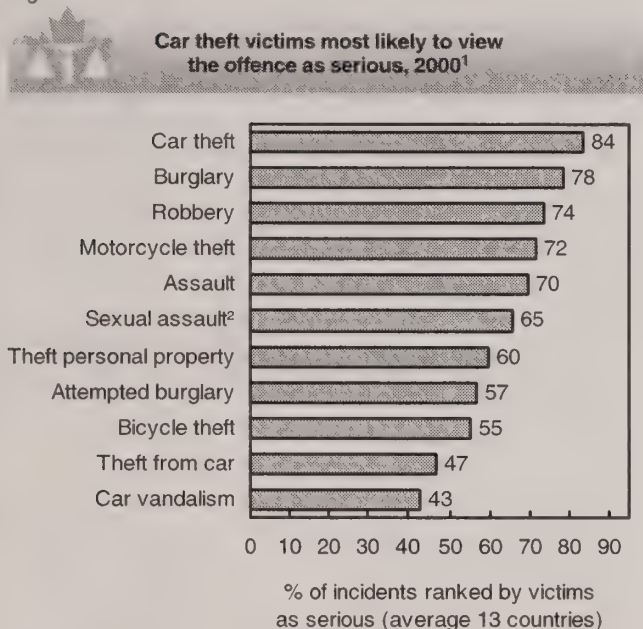
the way in 1996 as well, with a figure of 85%. In fact, in both 2000 and 1996, the same group of four offences were viewed as the most serious: car theft, burglary, robbery and motorcycle theft. All involve theft of property, although robbery is also a violent offence.

The other two violent offences, sexual assault and assault, were not viewed as seriously as the aforementioned crimes. The explanation for this appears to be related to the nature of these crimes. Both sexual assault and assault encompass a wide range of acts. For sexual assault, the range is from unwanted sexual touching, grabbing, kissing or fondling to forced sexual activity. For assault it can be anything from a threat of physical harm to an attack causing injury. The ICVS results indicate that the majority of sexual assaults and assaults involved the less serious forms of the crime and that victims did not view these forms as seriously, thus lowering the overall figure for seriousness. For example, for assaults involving threats alone, 65% were considered serious, whereas for assaults that involved force, 78% were considered serious, but as more than one-half of assaults involved threats alone, the overall figure for seriousness was 70%.

In 2000, the offences considered least serious by victims were car vandalism and theft from car. These findings were unchanged from 1996.

⁶ Figures for 1996 are based on 10 countries. They do not include Australia, Belgium or Japan, which did not participate.

Figure 3

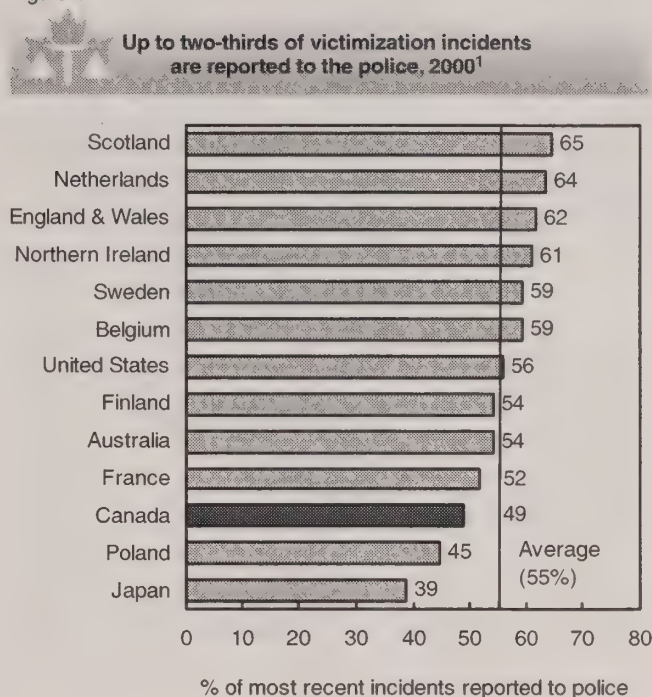


¹ Based on percentage of victims who believed the most recent incident in the previous 5 years was very or fairly serious.

² Figures for sexual assault include female victims only.

Source: International Crime Victimization Survey, 2000.

Figure 4



¹ Based on the most recent incident in the previous 5 years. The figures are an average for the 11 crime types.

Source: International Crime Victimization Survey, 2000.

Reporting victimization to the police

Not all victimization incidents are reported to the police. According to the 2000 ICVS, an average of just over one-half (55%) of incidents were reported (Figure 4).⁷ Countries with the highest rates of reporting included Scotland, Netherlands and England & Wales, while Japan, Poland and Canada had the lowest rates.

In Canada, reporting to police declined in 2000, falling to an average of 49% of incidents from a figure of 55% in 1996. A similar result was obtained by the 1999 GSS, which found that reporting for eight crime types fell from 42% in 1993 to 37% in 1999.⁸ France also experienced a decline in reporting in 2000. The reverse was true for Finland, Netherlands, and Scotland. The remaining countries did not have any significant change in their reporting rate. Overall, for the group of 13 countries there was very little change in the average reporting rate or in the relative ranking of the countries.

Victimization surveys such as the ICVS reveal that some crime types are more likely than others to be reported to police. On average for the 13 countries, more than 9 in 10 car thefts were reported to police in 2000, compared with less than 2 in 10 sexual assaults (Figure 5). In addition to car theft, motorcycle theft and burglary also had high rates of reporting. These results are quite similar to what was found by the 1996 ICVS. There is also some consistency with the results from the 1999 GSS showing that in Canada, both motor vehicle theft and break and enter have relatively high rates of reporting in comparison to assault and sexual assault.

Reasons for reporting/not reporting

For five of the offences — theft from car, burglary, robbery, sexual assault and assault — respondents to the ICVS were asked why they did or did not report the incident.⁹ The reasons varied depending on the type of crime. For the three offences involving theft of property (theft from car, burglary and robbery) there were five reasons that were all fairly important: to recover property, for insurance reasons, because it should be reported, to catch the offender and to stop a reoccurrence (Table 3). The one exception was in the case of robbery, where "insurance" was mentioned infrequently. The reasons for reporting sexual assault and assault were also similar, with the most common being "to catch the offender" and "to stop a reoccurrence of the crime". Another common reason for these two offences, mentioned in one-quarter of incidents, was "to get help".

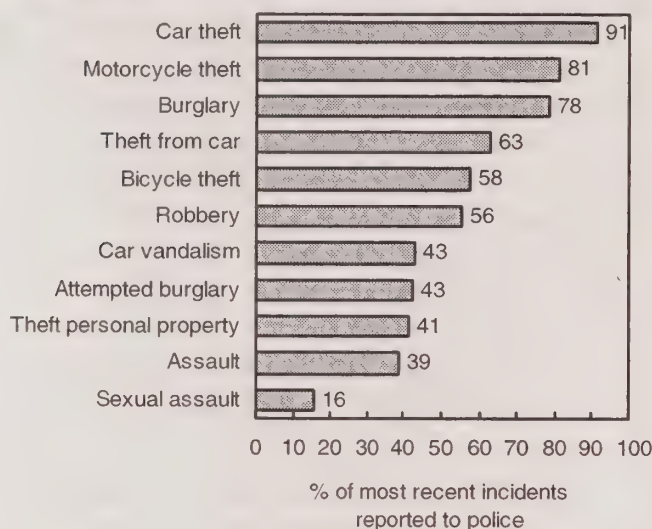
Regardless of crime type, the 2000 ICVS indicates that victims have similar reasons for not reporting crimes to the police. The top reason for all five offences was because the incident was "not serious" (Table 4). Again, results of the 1999 GSS

⁷ Victims were asked if they reported the last incident to the police. Last incidents include the most recent incident over the previous five years.

⁸ The eight crimes measured by the GSS are: robbery, sexual assault, assault, theft of personal property, break and enter, motor vehicle/parts theft, theft of household property and vandalism.

⁹ Only five offences were chosen in order to keep the length of the survey reasonable. One reason for choosing the five specific offences was to ensure there would be a large enough number of incidents to permit analysis.

Figure 5

Car theft reported most often, 2000¹

¹ Based on the most recent incident in the previous 5 years. The figures are an average for 13 countries.

Source: International Crime Victimization Survey, 2000.

were quite similar. The most common reasons given for not reporting offences were "incident not important enough" and "police couldn't do anything".

Profile of violent victimization

Risk factors

The ICVS measures the incidence of three violent crimes: robbery, sexual assault, and assault.¹⁰ In order to examine risks of violent victimization using the ICVS data, it is necessary to look at victimization over the previous five years. Otherwise, the small sample sizes limit the scope of analysis that can be done. On average, for the 13 countries in 2000, 6% of women were victims of sexual assault in the previous 5 years. For the other two violent offences, men were at greater risk of being victimized. The five-year victimization rate for robbery was 4% for men and 2% for women, while for assault, it was 12% and 10%, respectively. In many individual countries, as well, there were significant differences in the rates for men and women, with men having higher rates of robbery and assault. In Canada, for example, the five-year rate for robbery was 4% for men and 2% for women, the same as the overall average for the 13 countries. These results are consistent with previous research. The 1999 GSS found that men are at higher risk than women of being victims of robbery and assault. Further, the GSS, which did ask men if they had been victims of sexual assault, showed that the risk of sexual assault is higher for women than it is for men.

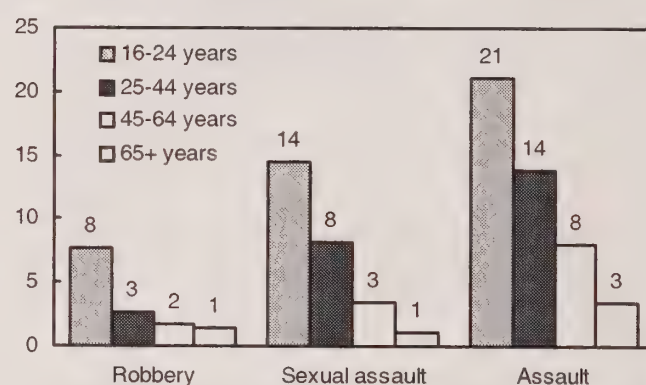
The 2000 ICVS indicates that for each of the three violent offences, the risk of violent victimization decreases with age. For example, for the group of 13 countries, the 5-year rate of

victimization for assault averaged 21% for those 16 to 24 years of age, 14% for 25- to 44-year-olds, 8% for 45- to 64-year-olds and 3% for those aged 65 years and older (Figure 6). Within most countries this same pattern was evident: there was a decline in the risk of violent victimization as age increased. Again, these findings are similar to what has been found previously by both victimization and police-reported surveys. In particular, the 1999 GSS indicated that people aged 15 to 24 were 21 times more likely to be victims of violent crime than were people in the 65+ age group.

Figure 6

Risk of violent victimization decreases with age, 2000¹

% of population 16+



¹ Based on average victimization in 13 countries during the previous five years. Sexual assault figures include women only.

Source: International Crime Victimization Survey, 2000.

Incident characteristics¹¹

Results of the ICVS indicate that many victims of violent offences do not know the perpetrator, but this varies quite widely by country. In 2000, victims did not know the offender in 69% of robbery incidents, 48% of assaults and 45% of sexual assaults (based on the average for 13 countries) (Table 5). In Canada and the United States, the perpetrator was not as likely to be a stranger as in many of the other countries. For example, for sexual assault incidents, the perpetrator was least likely to be a stranger in the United States (28% of incidents) and Canada (29%) and most likely to be a stranger in Japan (73%) and Poland (58%). The ICVS findings for Canada are consistent with what is typically found by both police-reported and victim reported surveys. For example, the 1999 GSS shows that for incidents involving a single offender, the perpetrator was a stranger in 51% of robberies, 26% of assaults and 25% of sexual assaults.

¹⁰ Apart from Canada and Australia, men were not asked whether they have been victims of sexual assault. As a result, men are excluded from the analysis of sexual assault.

¹¹ Victims were asked to provide details on the most recent incident in the previous five years.

Weapons are rarely present in violent crime incidents. According to the 2000 ICVS, on average for the 13 countries, the accused had no weapon in 90% of sexual assaults, 75% of assaults, and 52% of robberies. When the 1999 GSS asked victims of the same three violent crimes about weapons, the results were similar, with the accused not having a weapon in 87% of sexual assaults, 69% of assaults, and 53% of robberies.

The 2000 ICVS asked victims of assault if they had been injured as a result of the incident. On average for the 13 countries, just over one-quarter of victims did suffer an injury. In Canada, the GSS indicates that in 1999, 18% of violent incidents resulted in physical injury to the victim. This included a figure of 22% for both assault and robbery.

A minority of violent crime victims (or their families) contact a specialized agency that helps victims of crime. The 2000 ICVS found that on average for the 13 countries, about one in ten people who were victims of a robbery or an assault contacted a victim's agency. The figure for sexual assault was higher, with one in four victims having contacted such an organization. These figures are based on victims who reported the incident to police. Victims who did not report the incident were not asked about victims' agencies. Many victims who did not use the services of a specialized agency believed that one would have been useful.¹² The 1999 GSS asked all violent crime victims if they had contacted certain victim services, such as a crisis line, for help.¹³ The results indicate that the use of these services was limited, with contact or use of one of the services having occurred in 8% of violent incidents.

Fear of crime

The 2000 ICVS asked respondents three questions related to fear of crime: fear of walking alone at night, fear of being home alone at night, and fear of a break-in. The results for these three questions indicate that most people feel safe.

In 2000, a majority of people in each of the 13 countries felt very or fairly safe when walking alone in their area after dark (Figure 7). The average for the group of countries was 77% of the population. At 85%, Sweden had the highest proportion of the population that felt safe when walking alone, followed closely by Canada (83%) and the United States (83%). People in Australia and Poland were least likely to feel safe. The 1999 GSS also indicated a high proportion (88%) of Canadians felt safe when walking alone in their area after dark.

The question regarding fear of walking alone at night has been on the ICVS since 1992. Since that time, it appears that there has been some improvement in people's feelings of safety. Out of the 13 countries, Canada, England & Wales, Scotland and the United States have seen an increase in the proportion of the population that feel safe when walking alone at night. For example, 78% of Canadians felt safe in 1992 compared to 83% in 2000. In contrast, Australia, which had the highest victimization rate in 2000, is the one country that has seen a decline, from 69% in 1992 to 64% in 2000. The remaining

countries have experienced little change. Between 1993 and 1999, the GSS also noted an increase in the proportion of Canadians feeling safe when walking alone in their neighbourhoods after dark.

For the first time in 2000, ICVS respondents were asked how safe they felt being home alone at night. The results indicate that the vast majority of people feel secure. For all but one of the countries, more than 9 in 10 persons felt fairly or very safe when home alone. The lowest figure, belonging to Poland, was 83%. The highest figure, of 96%, was observed in five countries, including Canada.

On average for the 13 countries, more than one-half of the population believe the chance of a break-in is unlikely. In 2000, the figure ranged from 43% for France up to 84% for Finland (Figure 8). Canada was above the average at 66%. A number of countries experienced an increase in their feelings of safety in 2000. In particular, in comparison to 1996, seven countries had a greater share of the population that believed a break-in was unlikely (Table 6). The only decrease occurred in Japan, while in Canada, there was no significant change. The improvement noted in 2000 was a reverse of what happened between 1989 and 1992 when six countries experienced a significant decline in feelings of safety associated with a break-in.

Overall, there is some consistency in feelings of safety among the 13 countries. In 2000, for the three questions related to fear of crime, the same six countries (Canada, Finland, Netherlands, Scotland, Sweden and the United States) ranked highest in terms of the percentage of the population that felt safe.

Previous research suggests that personal experiences with crime are related to fear (Skogan and Maxfield 1981). With few exceptions, this proved to be true within individual countries. In Canada, for example, people who had been victimized in the previous year were less likely than those who had not been victimized to feel safe when walking alone at night. The relationship between victimization and fear did not hold true at a country level: countries with relatively high rates of victimization did not necessarily have relatively high levels of fear. A correlation analysis of the 2000 ICVS results for victimization rates and the levels of fear among the 13 countries did not show any significant relationship.

Household security measures

Respondents to the ICVS were asked what security measures were used in their homes: a burglar alarm, special door locks, special window/door grills, a dog, a high fence, a neighbourhood watch scheme or a caretaker/security guard. In 2000, the majority of households in 11 of 12 countries used at least one of these devices (Figure 9).¹⁴ The one exception was

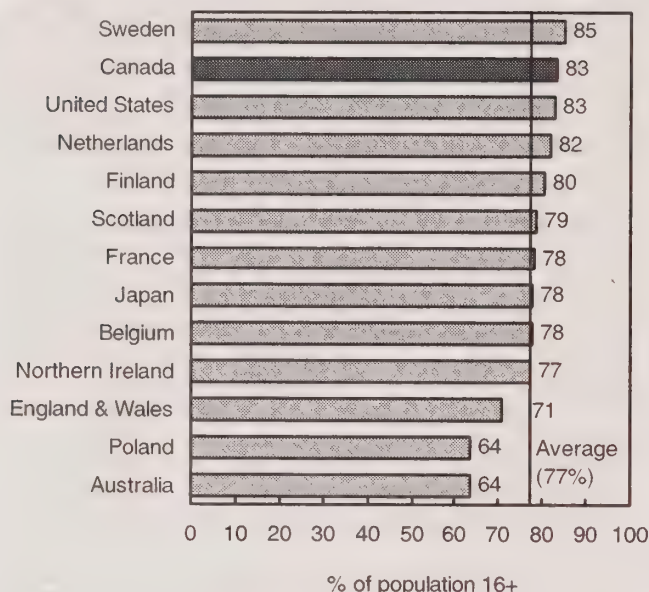
¹² This is based on victims who reported the incident to police, but did not contact a victim's agency.

¹³ The types of services were: crisis centre or crisis line, another counsellor, community centre/family centre, women's centre, men's centre/men's support group, seniors' centre.

¹⁴ Figures for Japan are not available.

Figure 7

The majority of people feel safe when walking alone at night, 2000¹

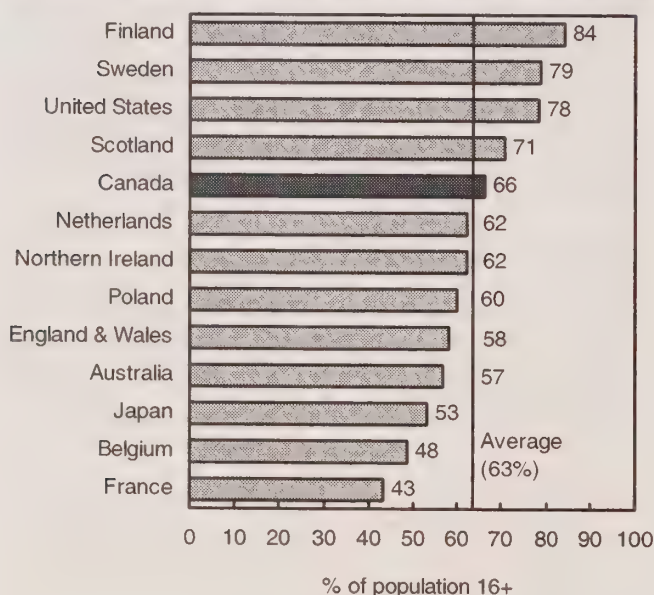


¹ Based on proportion of population that feel very or fairly safe when walking alone in their area after dark.

Source: International Crime Victimization Survey, 2000.

Figure 8

The majority of people believe the chance of a break-in is unlikely, 2000¹



¹ Based on proportion of population that feel chance of a break-in is unlikely.

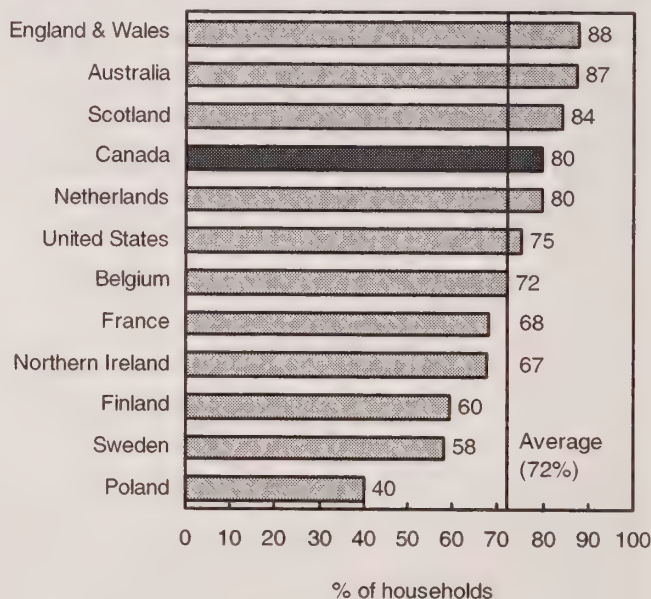
Source: International Crime Victimization Survey, 2000.

Poland, where the figure was 40% of households. Perhaps, a lower standard of living in Poland is partly responsible for this finding.¹⁵ On average for the 12 countries, 72% of households used at least one of the devices. In 1996, the figure for 9 countries was 71%.¹⁶

The most commonly used device in 2000 was special door locks, used by an average of 50% of households in the 12 countries. Next most common was having a dog that would detect a burglar, at 25%. Burglar alarms were used by 17% of households on average. The use of burglar alarms appears to be related to past victimization experience. In 8 of the 12 countries, households that had been burglarized in the previous 5 years were more likely than those not burglarized to have a burglar alarm. For example, 26% of Canadian households that had been victims of a burglary had an alarm compared with 21% of non-victims.

Figure 9

The majority of households use at least one security measure, 2000¹



¹ Based on proportion of households that employ at least one of the following security measures: burglar alarm, special door locks, special window/door grills, watch dog, high fence, caretaker/security guard, or neighbourhood watch scheme. A figure for Japan is not available.

Source: International Crime Victimization Survey, 2000.

¹⁵ GDP per capita in Poland in 1999 was US\$3,500 (United Nations 2000). In contrast, GDP in the other 12 countries ranged from US\$20,000 to US\$33,000. It should be noted that the GDP figures for England & Wales, Northern Ireland, and Scotland were combined into a single figure for the United Kingdom.

¹⁶ Figures for 1996 do not include Australia, Belgium or Japan, which did not participate, and Finland, for which data on home security were not available.

Attitudes toward the justice system

Respondents to the ICVS were asked for their opinions regarding two aspects of the justice system: police performance and sentencing.

Police performance

In the United States and Canada in particular, a large proportion of the population is satisfied with police performance. In 2000, 89% of Americans and 87% of Canadians felt that the police were doing a very or fairly good job at controlling crime in their area (Figure 10). Poland was the only country where less than one-half of the population was satisfied with the police.

Satisfaction with the police appears to have grown since 1996. In 2000, in every country except Sweden, there was a significant increase in the proportion of people who felt the police were doing a good job (Table 7). These findings could be due in part to a change in the survey questionnaire. In 2000, for the first time, respondents were given four categories to judge police performance: very good, fairly good, fairly poor and very poor. Previously respondents indicated by a yes or no whether police were doing a good job. It is possible that people who would have said "no" in the past were more likely to respond "fairly good" in 2000. Results of the 1999 GSS also indicate that Canadians are quite satisfied with the performance of the police and that this level of satisfaction increased slightly between 1993 and 1999.

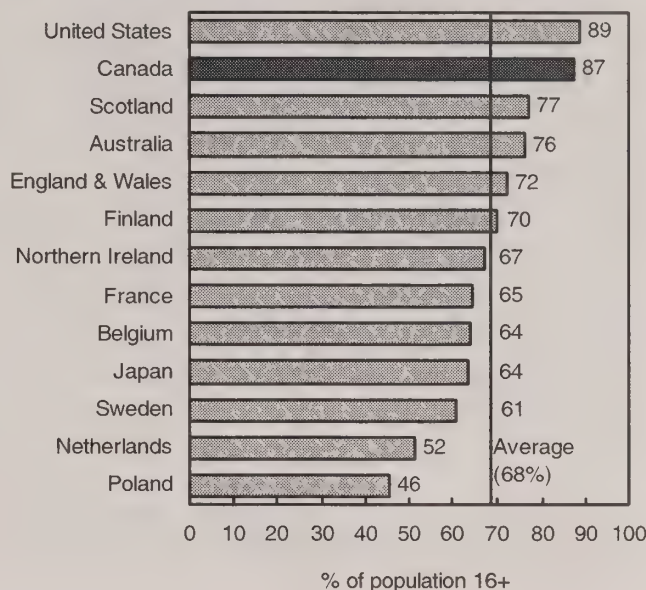
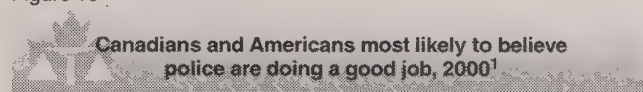
A second question regarding police performance was posed for the first time on the 2000 ICVS. Respondents were asked whether or not they agreed that police do everything they can to help people and be of service. The responses to this question also indicate a high degree of satisfaction with the police. On average for the 13 countries, 72% of the population agreed that police were helpful. The figures ranged from 43% for Netherlands up to 88% for Canada and the United States. The relative rankings of the countries were quite similar to those for the other question on police performance.

Not surprisingly, satisfaction with police performance is linked to victimization experience. Those who were victimized in the previous year were not as satisfied with the police. In Canada in 2000, 84% of people who had been victimized in the previous year felt the police were doing a fairly or very good job at controlling crime in their neighbourhood compared with 89% for non-victims. Significant differences such as this were observed for all but 2 of the 13 countries. (Australia and Northern Ireland were the exceptions.) Victimization experience over a longer time period was also related to opinions of police performance. Those who were victimized in the previous five years were less satisfied with police than those who had not been victimized. The 2000 ICVS figures for Canada were 85% and 90% respectively.

Although victims are less satisfied than non-victims with police performance, those who report their incident to police are often pleased with the response they receive. On average for 13 countries and 4 crime types, 63% of victims stated they were satisfied with the way the police dealt with the matter (Figure 11).¹⁷ The figures ranged from a low of 40% for Poland up to 76% for Finland. Canada was above average at 69%. Those who were not satisfied tended to have two main reasons:

47% felt the police did not do enough and 33% believed the police were not interested. (This is based on the average for the 4 crime types and 13 countries.)

Figure 10



¹ Based on proportion of population that feel police in their area are doing a very or fairly good job of controlling crime.

Source: International Crime Victimization Survey, 2000.

Sentencing

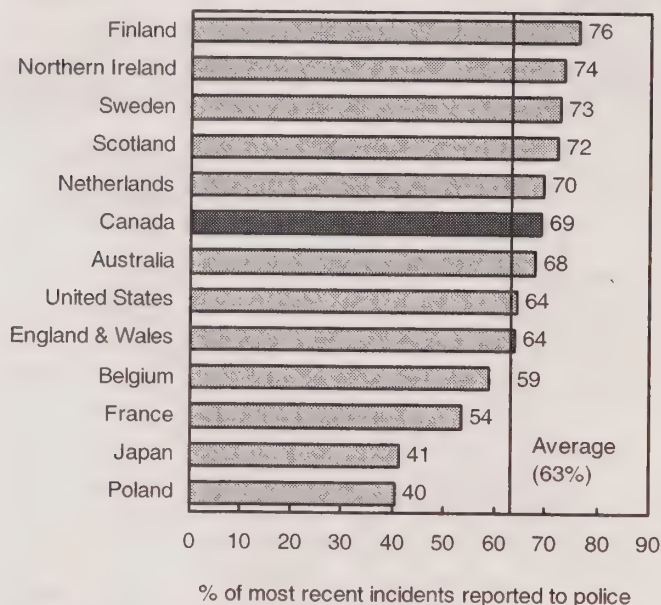
Respondents to the ICVS were asked what would be an appropriate sentence for a 21-year-old found guilty for a second time of burglary: fine, prison, community service, suspended sentence, or another sentence. In 2000, the majority of Canadians (52%) favoured a non-prison sanction (Table 8). However of the five sentencing alternatives, the largest single proportion of Canadians (45%) indicated that prison would be an appropriate sentence, followed by community service at 32%. The same pattern was evident for 7 other countries.

Canada's figure for prison was sixth highest among the group of 13 industrialized countries. The United States was first, with 56% of the population choosing prison, followed by Northern Ireland (54%), Scotland (52%), Japan (51%) and England & Wales (51%). In contrast, 12% of French people and 19% of Finland's population felt prison was an appropriate sentence.

¹⁷ Victims of five crime types (theft from car, burglary, robbery, sexual assault and assault) were asked if they were satisfied with police response for the most recent incident over the previous five years. The number of sexual assault incidents is very low, partly because many are not reported to police. Consequently, sexual assault was not included in the analysis.

Figure 11

Up to three-quarters of victims are satisfied with police response, 2000¹



¹ Based on the most recent incident in the previous 5 years. The figures indicate the average proportion of victims who were satisfied with police response for four crimes: theft from car, burglary, robbery and assault.

Source: International Crime Victimization Survey, 2000.

Canadians appear to have grown more punitive in their attitudes toward sentencing. ICVS results for 1989 indicate that less than one-third (32%) of the population felt that prison would be an appropriate sentence for a recidivist burglar (Table 9). This figure climbed to 39% in 1992, 43% in 1996 and 45% in 2000. People in seven other countries also appear to have become harsher in their attitudes. In particular, England & Wales, Finland, Japan, Netherlands, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Sweden all had higher proportions of the population choosing prison in 2000 than was the case in earlier cycles of the survey.

Methodology

Survey development

The operation and development of the ICVS is overseen by an international working group of criminologists. This group includes representatives from the Netherlands Institute for the Study of Criminality (NSCR), United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI), United Nations' Centre for International Crime Prevention (CICP), and the British Home Office. Each industrialized country has a survey co-ordinator and is responsible for the cost of its own survey. The Dutch Ministry of Justice pays overhead costs for the survey and a Dutch survey company co-ordinates the fieldwork in most countries.

Fieldwork

In 2000, the International Crime Victimization Survey was conducted for a fourth time. For 11 of the 17 industrialized countries that participated, fieldwork for the survey was co-

Box 2: Factors associated with sentencing preferences

Public attitudes regarding sentencing have important implications because public opinion can influence sentencing practices and policies (Roberts, Doob and Marinos 1999; Roberts and Stalans 1997). As well, from a practical perspective, citizens' perceptions of criminal courts may affect their willingness to report crimes and to serve as witnesses or jurors (Flanagan, McGarrell and Brown 1985). They may even influence citizens' willingness to comply with the law (Sarat 1977; Walker 1977; cited in Flanagan, et al. 1985). Thus, for policy makers, members of the criminal justice system and others, it is important to understand what factors play a role in shaping the public's views with regard to sentencing.

A recent analysis of the ICVS data examined whether certain socio-demographic factors, fear of crime, and/or victimization experience were associated with an individual's attitudes toward sentencing. The study used a multivariate logistic regression analysis technique and the ICVS data file for the years 1996 and 2000. (Logistic regression is a technique that is useful in studying the relationship between variables when the dependent variable is a categorical variable, for example, whether someone preferred a prison or a non-prison sanction.) The decision was made to combine the two years because sample sizes for the year 2000 were too small. Nine industrialized countries were included in the analysis: Canada, England & Wales, Finland, France, Netherlands, Northern Ireland, Scotland, Sweden and the United States.

The dependent variable for the analysis was a dichotomous variable with a value of 1 for persons who preferred prison for a recidivist burglar and 0 for persons who preferred a non-prison sanction. This variable was considered to be a proxy for punitiveness. Based on previous research on the subject, the independent variables chosen for the study were as follows:

- Socio-demographic: age, gender, marital status, level of education, household income, and employment status.
- Fear of crime: fear of walking alone at night, fear of a break-in, belief in the ability of police to control crime.
- Victimization experience: violent victimization (assault, robbery or sexual assault) in the current or previous year and non-violent victimization (theft of personal property, theft of car, theft from car, car vandalism, theft of motorcycle/moped, bicycle theft, burglary and attempts) in the current or previous year.

Multivariate models, fitted through logistic regression, were constructed for the nine countries combined, as well as for each individual country. The results of the analysis highlighted many differences among countries in the factors that are linked to punitiveness.

Gender was one of the most consistent predictors of punitiveness when the effects of all other variables in the model were controlled (see Table below). In all nine countries, men were more punitive than women. Fear of crime was also a consistent predictor of attitudes toward sentencing. At least one of the fear variables was a significant factor in predicting attitudes toward sentencing in the nine countries that were studied, with those who were fearful being more punitive than those who were not. For all but one country (Scotland), fear of walking alone at night was significant.

(Continues on next page.)

Age was a significant predictor of punitiveness in all of the countries except Finland, but the effect was not consistent. In five countries, younger people tended to be less punitive, while in three countries the opposite was true. Part of the explanation for this could be related to the fact that age was only available as a categorical variable (i.e. respondent ages were available in categories, such as 16 to 24 years and 25 to 44 years, rather than in individual years). The results may have been different if age were available as a continuous variable.

Although not significant in the overall model, marital status was a predictor of attitudes toward sentencing in five of the nine countries. People who were married tended to be more punitive than those who were not married (i.e. people who were single, divorced, separated, or widowed). In four countries, education was related to punitiveness, with those who were less educated being harsher. As well, in four of the nine countries, individuals with lower income were more punitive. As for employment status, those who worked at a paid job tended to be less punitive than others (i.e. those who were unemployed, a homemaker, retired, or a student). However, the effect for the United States was the reverse.

Victimization experience was a significant factor in six of the countries that were examined. However, the results were inconsistent. In Canada, victims of violent crime were harsher in their attitudes than were non-victims. In, Finland, Northern Ireland and the United States, it was victims of non-violent crimes who were more punitive. Finally, in England & Wales, and Scotland, victims of non-violent crime were less punitive than were non-victims. Hough and Moxon (1988) suggested that one explanation for these results might be that non-victims imagine the victimization experience to be worse than what most victims actually experience. For example, non-victims might envision a burglar ransacking and destroying their home, while most victims experience something less severe.

Factors related to the preference for prison, logistic regression partial odds ratio analysis, 1996 and 2000

| Factor | Canada | England & Wales | Finland | France | The Netherlands | Northern Ireland | Scotland | Sweeden | United States | All Countries |
|--|----------|-----------------|----------|----------|-----------------|------------------|----------|----------|---------------|---------------|
| Socio-demographic | | | | | | | | | | |
| Age (16-24) | | | | | | | | | | |
| 25-44 | 1.12 | 0.57*** | n.s. | 1.52* | 0.57*** | 1.34** | 0.77* | 0.91 | 1.34* | 1.11** |
| 45+ | 0.79** | 0.34*** | n.s. | 0.76 | 0.35*** | 1.23* | 0.61*** | 0.46*** | 0.97 | 0.83*** |
| Gender (Female) | | | | | | | | | | |
| Male | 1.32*** | 1.34*** | 1.62*** | 1.80*** | 1.76*** | 1.33*** | 1.23*** | 1.42*** | 1.50*** | 1.46*** |
| Marital status (Not married) | | | | | | | | | | |
| Married | 1.20*** | 1.20** | n.s. | n.s. | 1.20* | n.s. | 1.29*** | n.s. | 1.46*** | n.s. |
| Education (1-10 years) | | | | | | | | | | |
| 11+ years | n.s. | 0.59*** | n.s. | n.s. | 0.80** | n.s. | 0.77*** | 0.69*** | n.s. | n.s. |
| Household income (Below average) | | | | | | | | | | |
| Above average | n.s. | 0.74*** | 0.82** | n.s. | n.s. | n.s. | 0.79*** | n.s. | n.s. | 0.86*** |
| Employment status (Other) | | | | | | | | | | |
| Working at a job | n.s. | n.s. | 0.70*** | 0.54*** | 0.70*** | n.s. | 0.83** | n.s. | 1.23* | n.s. |
| Fear of crime | | | | | | | | | | |
| Fear of walking alone (Feel safe) | | | | | | | | | | |
| Feel unsafe | 1.41*** | 1.35*** | 1.24* | 1.92*** | 1.31** | 1.35*** | n.s. | 1.63*** | 1.50*** | 1.53*** |
| Chance of a break-in (Not likely) | | | | | | | | | | |
| Likely | n.s. | 1.33*** | n.s. | n.s. | n.s. | n.s. | 1.29*** | 1.36** | n.s. | 1.20*** |
| Police do a good job of controlling crime (Yes) | | | | | | | | | | |
| No | n.s. | 1.42*** | 1.30*** | n.s. | 1.25** | n.s. | 1.31*** | 1.48*** | 0.70** | n.s. |
| Victimization experience | | | | | | | | | | |
| Victim of a violent crime in current or previous year (No) | | | | | | | | | | |
| Yes | 1.30** | n.s. | n.s. | n.s. | n.s. | n.s. | n.s. | n.s. | n.s. | n.s. |
| Victim of a non-violent crime in current or previous year (No) | | | | | | | | | | |
| Yes | n.s. | 0.86* | 1.25** | n.s. | n.s. | 1.44*** | 0.86* | n.s. | 1.23* | n.s. |
| -2 Log Likelihood | 5,322.46 | 3,621.23 | 3,956.58 | 1,334.83 | 2,260.56 | 3,339.95 | 4,066.83 | 2,255.25 | 2,221.99 | 32,576.48 |
| Model Chi-square | 65.03*** | 144.01*** | 77.06*** | 43.68*** | 63.44*** | 31.09*** | 66.15*** | 79.25*** | 58.40*** | 455.69*** |
| Df | 6 | 10 | 6 | 5 | 12 | 5 | 10 | 7 | 8 | 6 |

n.s.=not significant

***p<.01 **p<.05 *p<.1

p is the significance level. For example, a significance level of .05 indicates that there is a 5% probability that the survey (sample) data will suggest that there is a relationship between the variables, when no relationship actually exists in the population.

The reference category is indicated in brackets.

Source: International Crime Victimization Survey, 2000.

Source: Besserer (2002).

ordinated by the Dutch company Interview-NSS.¹⁸ Local companies were hired to conduct the survey, but Interview-NSS maintained responsibility for the questionnaire, sample selection and interview procedures. For the other 6 countries, national co-ordinators, working in conjunction with researchers at Leiden University (Netherlands), organized the work. This ensured standardized procedures.

Sampling and mode of interview

In each country, a random sample of households was chosen. Random digit dialing was used in the 14 countries where telephone interviews were conducted. With telephone interviewing, households without telephones are excluded from the sample. It is believed that this is not a serious problem, as telephone ownership is quite high in most of the industrialized countries surveyed (van Kesteren et al. 2000).

In 3 of the 17 countries (Japan, Northern Ireland, and Poland), face-to-face interviews were conducted. In Northern Ireland and Poland this method was used because telephone ownership is low. In Japan, face-to-face interviewing was utilized because of the visual nature of the language (Hamai 2000; cited in van Kesteren et al. 2000). Response rates tended to be higher in the three countries where face-to-face interviews were conducted (Table 10). However, it is not believed that this had any significant impact on the survey results. The two modes of interviewing produce similar results, as long as the same standards of fieldwork are applied (van Kesteren et al. 2000).

Once households were chosen, an individual 16 years or older was selected at random to respond to the survey.

Data collection and processing

A standard questionnaire was used to gather the information. Telephone interviews were conducted using computer-assisted telephone interviewing (CATI). Computer assistance helps to better standardize the interview process.

Researchers at Leiden University were responsible for processing the data and making data files available for analysis.

Response rates

The response rate for the 2000 ICVS averaged 63%, ranging from 45% for France to 81% for Northern Ireland (Table 10). It is not believed that the level of response has had any significant impact on the ICVS results. Evidence suggests that countries with low response levels have neither inflated nor deflated the victimization counts relative to other countries (van Kesteren et al. 2000).

Data limitations

It is important to note that the ICVS data are estimates. They are based on information collected from a small fraction of the population. The sample sizes, as indicated in Table 10 (completed interviews), ranged from 1,000 to just over 5,000 respondents. A single respondent can represent anywhere from 1,000 to over 200,000 people, depending on the country. As a result, the data are subject to sampling error. The size of the sampling error depends on many factors, including the sample size, the percentage observed, and the level of confidence chosen. The sampling error for the ICVS, using a 90% confidence interval, is shown in Table 11.

As an example of how this table should be used, consider the overall victimization rate for Canada. The ICVS estimates that 23.8% of the population was victimized in 2000. Using the table, for a sample of 2,000 (closest to the Canadian sample size of 2,078) and an observed percentage of 25, the sampling error is 1.7. This means that the 90% confidence interval is between 22.1% and 25.5% (23.8 ± 1.7). The interpretation of the confidence interval is as follows: if repeated samples of this size were drawn, each one leading to a new confidence interval, then in 90% of the samples, the confidence interval would include the true value for the population.

Because the results are subject to sampling error, the difference between some figures will not be statistically significant. For example, the difference between the 2000 and the 1996 victimization rates for Canada (24% and 25%, respectively) is not statistically significant.

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- ¹⁸ These 11 countries were: Belgium, Canada, Denmark, England & Wales, France, Netherlands, Northern Ireland, Portugal, Scotland, Sweden and the United States.

Table 1

Trends in victimization rates, 1989-2000¹

| | Victimized one or more times in the previous year | | | |
|------------------|---|------|------|------|
| | 1989 | 1992 | 1996 | 2000 |
| | % of population 16+ | | | |
| Australia | 28 | 29 | .. | 30 |
| Belgium | 18 | 19 | .. | 21 |
| Canada | 28 | 28 | 25▼ | 24 |
| England & Wales | 19 | 30▲ | 31 | 26▼ |
| Finland | 16 | 21▲ | 19▼ | 19 |
| France | 19 | .. | 25▲ | 21▼ |
| Japan | 9 | .. | .. | 15▲ |
| Netherlands | 27 | 31▲ | 31 | 25▼ |
| Northern Ireland | 15 | .. | 17 | 15 |
| Poland | .. | 27 | 23▼ | 23 |
| Scotland | 19 | .. | 26▲ | 23▼ |
| Sweden | .. | 21 | 24 | 25 |
| United States | 29 | 26▼ | 24 | 21 |
| Average | 21 | 26 | 25 | 22 |

.. not available for a specific reference period

▲ denotes a statistically significant increase compared to the previous cycle ($p \leq .1$)

▼ denotes a statistically significant decrease compared to the previous cycle ($p \leq .1$)

p is the significance level. A significance level of .1 indicates that there is a 10% probability that the survey results will indicate that there was a change in the estimate (victimization rate) when no change actually occurred.

¹ Based on 11 types of crime.

Source: International Crime Victimization Survey, 2000.

Table 2

Victimization rates by type of offence, 2000¹

| | Violent offences ² | Household burglary ³ | Motor vehicle theft ⁴ | Other theft ⁵ | Car vandalism | All offences |
|------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------|---------------|--------------|
| | % of population 16+ | | | | | |
| Australia | 9 | 7 | 2 | 14 | 9 | 30 |
| Belgium | 4 | 4 | 1 | 10 | 6 | 21 |
| Canada | 7 | 4 | 1 | 12 | 5 | 24 |
| England & Wales | 7 | 5 | 2 | 12 | 9 | 26 |
| Finland | 6 | 1 | 1 | 10 | 4 | 19 |
| France | 5 | 2 | 2 | 10 | 8 | 21 |
| Japan | 1 | 2 | 1 | 8 | 4 | 15 |
| Netherlands | 5 | 4 | 1 | 14 | 9 | 25 |
| Northern Ireland | 3 | 3 | 1 | 6 | 5 | 15 |
| Poland | 4 | 3 | 1 | 13 | 7 | 23 |
| Scotland | 7 | 3 | 1 | 10 | 9 | 23 |
| Sweden | 5 | 2 | 2 | 16 | 5 | 25 |
| United States | 5 | 4 | 1 | 12 | 7 | 21 |
| Average | 5 | 3 | 1 | 11 | 7 | 22 |

¹ Based on persons victimized one or more times in the previous year.

² Includes sexual assault, assault and robbery.

³ Includes attempts.

⁴ Includes theft of cars, vans, trucks or motorcycles.

⁵ Includes personal theft, theft from cars and theft of bicycles.

Notes: Figures do not sum to total due to multiple responses.

Source: International Crime Victimization Survey, 2000.

Table 3

Reasons for reporting to police, 2000¹

| Offence | Recover property | Insurance | Should be reported | Catch offender | Stop reoccurrence | Get help | Compensation from offender | Other |
|---|------------------|-----------|--------------------|----------------|-------------------|----------|----------------------------|-------|
| % of last incidents reported to police (average 13 countries) | | | | | | | | |
| Theft from car | 40 | 37 | 38 | 29 | 23 | 8 | 7 | 11 |
| Burglary | 30 | 28 | 42 | 39 | 28 | 11 | 8 | 12 |
| Robbery | 35 | 9 | 41 | 46 | 30 | 16 | 6 | 18 |
| Sexual assault | ... | ... | 29 | 49 | 55 | 24 | 2 | 23 |
| Assault | 3 | 4 | 34 | 40 | 42 | 25 | 6 | 18 |

... not applicable

¹ Based on the most recent incident over the previous five years. Totals may exceed 100% due to multiple responses.

Source: International Crime Victimization Survey, 2000.

Table 4

Reasons for not reporting to police, 2000¹

| Offence | Not serious | Police could do nothing | Police won't do anything | Inappropriate for police | Solved it myself | Other |
|---|-------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|------------------|-------|
| % of last incidents not reported to police (average 13 countries) | | | | | | |
| Theft from car | 53 | 21 | 17 | 10 | 4 | 22 |
| Burglary | 31 | 13 | 11 | 9 | 14 | 36 |
| Robbery | 39 | 18 | 11 | 9 | 12 | 45 |
| Sexual assault | 38 | 13 | 9 | 16 | 17 | 43 |
| Assault | 35 | 13 | 11 | 12 | 17 | 39 |

¹ Based on the most recent incident over the previous five years. Totals may exceed 100% due to multiple responses.

Source: International Crime Victimization Survey, 2000.

Table 5

Profile of violent crime incidents, 2000¹

| | | Robbery | Sexual assault ² | Assault |
|--|-----------------------|--|-----------------------------|---------|
| | | % of last incidents (average 13 countries) | | |
| Victim knew offender | Yes | 23 | 51 | 46 |
| | No | 69 | 45 | 48 |
| | Don't know/Not stated | 9 | 3 | 6 |
| Accused had a weapon | Yes | 36 | 6 | 18 |
| | No | 52 | 90 | 75 |
| | Don't know/Not stated | 11 | 4 | 6 |
| Victim was injured | Yes | . | . | 27 |
| | No | . | . | 73 |
| | Don't know/Not stated | . | . | 0 |
| Victim or their family contacted a victim's agency ³ | Yes | 10 | 25 | 11 |
| | No | 90 | 75 | 89 |
| | Don't know/Not stated | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Victim feels a victim's agency would have been useful ⁴ | Yes | 32 | 51 | 36 |
| | No | 61 | 42 | 57 |
| | Don't know/Not stated | 7 | 7 | 8 |

. not available for any reference period

Figures may not add to total due to rounding.

¹ Based on the most recent incident over previous five years. Figures are an average for 13 countries.

² Includes women only.

³ Asked of victims who reported the incident to police.

⁴ Asked of victims who reported the incident to police, but did not contact a victim's agency.

Source: International Crime Victimization Survey, 2000.

Table 6

Trends in fear of a break-in, 1989-2000

| Chances of a break-in unlikely | | | | |
|--------------------------------|---------------------|------|------|------|
| | 1989 | 1992 | 1996 | 2000 |
| | % of population 16+ | | | |
| Australia | 50 | 46▼ | .. | 57▲ |
| Belgium | 56 | 44▼ | .. | 48▲ |
| Canada | 67 | 63▼ | 64 | 66 |
| England & Wales | 55 | 47▼ | 52▲ | 58▲ |
| Finland | 85 | 79▼ | 86▲ | 84 |
| France | 54 | .. | 38▼ | 43▲ |
| Japan | 74 | .. | .. | 53▼ |
| Netherlands | 58 | 55▼ | 57 | 62▲ |
| Northern Ireland | 66 | .. | 65 | 62 |
| Poland | .. | 60 | 61 | 60 |
| Scotland | 59 | .. | 67▲ | 71▲ |
| Sweden | .. | 61 | 78▲ | 79 |
| United States | 67 | .. | 71▲ | 78▲ |
| Average | 63 | 57 | 64 | 63 |

.. not available for a specific reference period

▲ denotes a statistically significant increase compared to the previous cycle ($p \leq .1$)

▼ denotes a statistically significant decrease compared to the previous cycle ($p \leq .1$)

p is the significance level. A significance level of .1 indicates that there is a 10% probability that the survey results will indicate that there was a change in the estimate when no change actually occurred.

Source: International Crime Victimization Survey, 2000.

Table 7

Trends in perception of police performance, 1989-2000¹

| | Police doing a good job of controlling crime | | | |
|------------------|--|------|------|------|
| | 1989 | 1992 | 1996 | 2000 |
| | % of population 16+ | | | |
| Australia | 73 | 72 | .. | 76▲ |
| Belgium | 53 | 47▼ | .. | 64▲ |
| Canada | 89 | 82▼ | 80 | 87▲ |
| England & Wales | 70 | 66▼ | 68 | 72▲ |
| Finland | 64 | 53▼ | 55 | 70▲ |
| France | 62 | .. | 56▼ | 65▲ |
| Japan | 59 | .. | .. | 64▼ |
| Netherlands | 58 | 50▼ | 45▼ | 52▲ |
| Northern Ireland | 63 | .. | 63 | 67▲ |
| Poland | .. | 37 | 27▼ | 46▲ |
| Scotland | 71 | .. | 69 | 77▲ |
| Sweden | .. | 58 | 62 | 61 |
| United States | 80 | .. | 77▼ | 89▲ |
| Average | 67 | 58 | 60 | 68 |

.. not available for a specific reference period

▲ denotes a statistically significant increase compared to the previous cycle ($p \leq .1$)

▼ denotes a statistically significant decrease compared to the previous cycle ($p \leq .1$)

p is the significance level. A significance level of .1 indicates that there is a 10% probability that the survey results will indicate that there was a change in the estimate when no change actually occurred.

¹ The 2000 ICVS added four categories: very good, fairly good, fairly poor and very poor. Previously, respondents answered yes or no to the question.

Source: International Crime Victimization Survey, 2000.

Table 8

Sentencing preferences of the public, 2000¹

| | Prison | Non-Prison | | | | | Don't know |
|------------------|--------|---------------------|-------------------|------|--------------------|-------|------------|
| | | Total | Community Service | Fine | Suspended Sentence | Other | |
| | | % of population 16+ | | | | | |
| Australia | 37 | 58 | 35 | 8 | 10 | 4 | 5 |
| Belgium | 21 | 76 | 57 | 11 | 5 | 3 | 3 |
| Canada | 45 | 52 | 32 | 9 | 3 | 7 | 3 |
| England & Wales | 51 | 44 | 28 | 7 | 5 | 4 | 5 |
| Finland | 19 | 79 | 47 | 15 | 15 | 2 | 2 |
| France | 12 | 84 | 69 | 8 | 5 | 2 | 5 |
| Japan | 51 | 36 | 19 | 17 | 1 | 0 | 13 |
| Netherlands | 37 | 56 | 30 | 11 | 10 | 5 | 6 |
| Northern Ireland | 54 | 43 | 29 | 8 | 4 | 2 | 3 |
| Poland | 21 | 74 | 55 | 10 | 6 | 4 | 5 |
| Scotland | 52 | 44 | 24 | 11 | 5 | 4 | 4 |
| Sweden | 31 | 65 | 47 | 11 | 4 | 3 | 4 |
| United States | 56 | 38 | 20 | 9 | 1 | 8 | 6 |
| Average | 37 | 58 | 38 | 10 | 6 | 4 | 5 |

Figures may not add to total due to rounding.

¹ Respondents were asked what sentence should be given to a 21-year-old man found guilty of burglary for a second time.

Source: International Crime Victimization Survey, 2000.

Table 9

Changes in sentencing preferences, 1989-2000¹

| | Prison | | | |
|------------------|---------------------|------|------|------|
| | 1989 | 1992 | 1996 | 2000 |
| | % of population 16+ | | | |
| Australia | 36 | 34 | .. | 37▲ |
| Belgium | 26 | 19▼ | .. | 21 |
| Canada | 32 | 39▲ | 43▲ | 45 |
| England & Wales | 38 | 37 | 49▲ | 51 |
| Finland | 15 | 14 | 18▲ | 19 |
| France | 13 | .. | 11 | 12 |
| Japan | 13 | .. | .. | 51▲ |
| Netherlands | 26 | 26 | 31▲ | 37▲ |
| Northern Ireland | 45 | .. | 49▲ | 54▲ |
| Poland | .. | 31 | 17▼ | 21▲ |
| Scotland | 39 | .. | 48▲ | 52▲ |
| Sweden | .. | 26 | 22▼ | 31▲ |
| United States | 53 | .. | 56▲ | 56 |
| Average | 30 | 28 | 34 | 37 |

.. not available for a specific reference period

▲ denotes a statistically significant increase compared to the previous cycle ($p \leq .1$)

▼ denotes a statistically significant decrease compared to the previous cycle ($p \leq .1$)

p is the significance level. A significance level of .1 indicates that there is a 10% probability that the survey results will indicate that there was a change in the estimate when no change actually occurred.

¹ Based on the proportion of the population that indicated a prison sentence was the appropriate sanction for a 21-year-old man found guilty of burglary for a second time.

Source: International Crime Victimization Survey, 2000.

Table 10

Sample size and response rates, 1989-2000¹

| | Completed interviews (#) and response rate (%) | | | | | | | |
|------------------|--|----|-------|----|-------|----|-------|----|
| | 1989 | | 1992 | | 1996 | | 2000 | |
| | # | % | # | % | # | % | # | % |
| Australia | 2,012 | 45 | 2,006 | 57 | .. | .. | 2,005 | 58 |
| Belgium | 2,060 | 37 | 1,485 | 44 | .. | .. | 2,402 | 56 |
| Canada | 2,074 | 43 | 2,152 | 65 | 2,134 | 74 | 2,078 | 57 |
| England & Wales | 2,006 | 43 | 2,001 | 38 | 2,171 | 59 | 1,947 | 57 |
| Finland | 1,025 | 70 | 1,620 | 86 | 3,899 | 86 | 1,783 | 77 |
| France | 1,502 | 51 | .. | .. | 1,003 | 61 | 1,000 | 45 |
| Japan | 2,411 | 80 | 2,382 | 79 | .. | .. | 2,211 | 74 |
| Netherlands | 2,000 | 65 | 2,000 | 66 | 2,008 | 63 | 2,001 | 58 |
| Northern Ireland | 2,000 | .. | .. | .. | 1,042 | 84 | 1,565 | 81 |
| Poland | .. | .. | 2,033 | 96 | 3,483 | 94 | 5,276 | 78 |
| Scotland | 2,007 | 41 | .. | .. | 2,194 | 63 | 2,040 | 58 |
| Sweden | .. | .. | 1,707 | 77 | 1,000 | 75 | 2,000 | 66 |
| United States | 1,996 | 37 | 1,501 | 50 | 1,003 | 40 | 1,000 | 60 |
| Average | | 51 | | 66 | | 70 | | 63 |

.. not available for a specific reference period

¹ Response rate = $100 \times (\text{completed interviews} / \text{eligible households})$.

Source: International Crime Victimization Survey, 2000.

Table 11

Sampling error (with a 90% level of confidence)

| Sample Size | Percentage observed | | | | | | | | | | |
|-------------|---------------------|---------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| | 2 98 | 5 95 | 10 90 | 15 85 | 20 80 | 25 75 | 30 70 | 35 65 | 40 60 | 45 55 | 50 50 |
| 25 | 4.6 | 7.2 | 9.9 | 11.8 | 13.2 | 15.2 | 15.1 | 15.7 | 16.1 | 16.4 | 16.5 |
| 50 | 3.3 | 5.1 | 7.0 | 8.3 | 9.3 | 10.7 | 10.7 | 11.1 | 11.4 | 11.6 | 11.6 |
| 100 | 2.3 | 3.6 | 4.9 | 5.9 | 6.6 | 7.6 | 7.5 | 7.9 | 8.1 | 8.2 | 8.2 |
| 200 | 1.6 | 2.5 | 3.5 | 4.2 | 4.7 | 5.4 | 5.3 | 5.6 | 5.7 | 5.8 | 5.8 |
| 300 | 1.3 | 2.1 | 2.9 | 3.4 | 3.8 | 4.4 | 4.4 | 4.5 | 4.7 | 4.7 | 4.8 |
| 400 | 1.2 | 1.8 | 2.5 | 2.9 | 3.3 | 3.8 | 3.8 | 3.9 | 4.0 | 4.1 | 4.1 |
| 500 | 1.0 | 1.6 | 2.2 | 2.6 | 2.9 | 3.4 | 3.4 | 3.5 | 3.6 | 3.7 | 3.7 |
| 600 | 0.9 | 1.5 | 2.0 | 2.4 | 2.7 | 3.1 | 3.1 | 3.2 | 3.3 | 3.3 | 3.4 |
| 700 | 0.9 | 1.4 | 1.9 | 2.2 | 2.5 | 2.9 | 2.9 | 3.0 | 3.0 | 3.1 | 3.1 |
| 800 | 0.8 | 1.3 | 1.7 | 2.1 | 2.3 | 2.7 | 2.7 | 2.8 | 2.9 | 2.9 | 2.9 |
| 900 | 0.8 | 1.2 | 1.6 | 2.0 | 2.2 | 2.5 | 2.5 | 2.6 | 2.7 | 2.7 | 2.7 |
| 1,000 | 0.7 | 1.1 | 1.6 | 1.9 | 2.1 | 2.4 | 2.4 | 2.5 | 2.5 | 2.6 | 2.6 |
| 1,200 | 0.7 | 1.0 | 1.4 | 1.7 | 1.9 | 2.2 | 2.2 | 2.3 | 2.3 | 2.4 | 2.4 |
| 1,400 | 0.6 | 1.0 | 1.3 | 1.6 | 1.8 | 2.0 | 2.0 | 2.1 | 2.2 | 2.2 | 2.2 |
| 1,600 | 0.6 | 0.9 | 1.2 | 1.5 | 1.6 | 1.9 | 1.9 | 2.0 | 2.0 | 2.0 | 2.1 |
| 1,800 | 0.5 | 0.8 | 1.2 | 1.4 | 1.6 | 1.8 | 1.8 | 1.9 | 1.9 | 1.9 | 1.9 |
| 2,000 | 0.5 | 0.8 | 1.1 | 1.3 | 1.5 | 1.7 | 1.7 | 1.8 | 1.8 | 1.8 | 1.8 |
| 3,000 | 0.4 | 0.7 | 0.9 | 1.1 | 1.2 | 1.4 | 1.4 | 1.4 | 1.5 | 1.5 | 1.5 |
| 4,000 | 0.4 | 0.6 | 0.8 | 0.9 | 1.0 | 1.2 | 1.2 | 1.2 | 1.3 | 1.3 | 1.3 |
| 6,000 | 0.3 | 0.5 | 0.6 | 0.8 | 0.8 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.1 | 1.1 |

Source: International Crime Victimization Survey, 2000.

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NATIONAL TRENDS IN INTIMATE PARTNER HOMICIDES, 1974-2000

by Valerie Pottie Bunge¹

Highlights

- Since 1974, nearly 2,600 spousal homicides have been recorded in Canada. More than three-quarters have been against women.
- Spousal homicide rates for both women and men have declined between 1974 and 2000. In this time period, the homicide rate for women decreased by 62%, from 16.5 to 6.3 women per million couples. The homicide rate for men dropped by more than half (55%) from 4.4 to 2.0 men per million couples. Homicide rates among other intimate partners also declined over this time period.
- Between 1974 and 2000, there were declines in the rates at which women and men were killed by spouses in most age groups.
- There is a combined effect of age and marital status on the risk of spousal homicide. Between 1991 and 2000, young (15-24 years) separated women were killed at a rate of 113.4 women per million separated couples compared to 9.5 women per million separated couples 55 years and older.
- As with rates of overall violent crime in Canada, rates of spousal homicide have been higher in the Prairie provinces. For women, average rates between 1974 and 2000 were highest in Manitoba (16.1 women per million couples), while for men rates were highest in Saskatchewan (7.1 men per million couples). The lowest rates of spousal homicide perpetrated against women were recorded in Newfoundland and Labrador (4.1 women per million couples) and in Prince Edward Island for men (1.0 men per million couples).
- Firearms were the most frequently used weapon in the commission of spousal homicides between 1974 and 2000, accounting for the death of more than one in three victims. In non-spousal homicides, physical force was more likely to be the cause of death (30%).
- Between 1991 and 2000, the percentage of spousal homicide cases citing a history of domestic violence between victims and perpetrators increased from 53% to 67%.
- Over half of all spousal homicides committed between 1991 and 2000, involved an accused who had a prior criminal conviction.
- In more than one in five spousal homicides, the incident culminated in the suicide of the accused. This was far more often the case when the accused was male. Between 1974 and 2000, more than a quarter of male perpetrators and 3% of female perpetrators took their lives following the incident, representing a total of 564 men and 15 women.
- Many recent societal changes may have contributed to the declines in spousal homicide rates including the changing nature of intimate relationships, increasing gender equality, legislative changes, policy and procedural changes such as specialized domestic violence courts, training of criminal justice personnel and increasing availability of resources for victims.

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INTRODUCTION

Police-reported statistics indicate that the overall crime rate in Canada decreased for the ninth consecutive year in 2000 and is at its lowest point since 1978 (Logan, 2001). Homicide rates have also declined 42% since 1975 to a low of 1.76 per 100,000 population in 2000. In addition, the 1999 General Social Survey (GSS) results show that many Canadians perceive that crime has stabilized over the past five years and feel less fearful of being a victim of crime in their neighborhoods compared to 1993 (Besserer and Trainor, 2000).

Over the past two decades spousal homicide rates have been declining in both Canada (Locke, 2000) and the United States (Rosenfeld, 1997; Puzone, et al, 2000; Dugan, et al, 1999, Browne et al, 1993). There is also some indication that non-lethal violence among spouses has been declining. While results must be interpreted with caution due to somewhat different approaches,² comparisons between the 1993 Violence Against Women Survey (VAWS) and the 1999 General Social Survey (GSS) indicate that 5-year rates of physical and sexual violence against female spouses declined from 12% in 1993 to 8% in 1999, a statistically significant drop (Johnson, 2000). On the other hand, there has been an increase in the number of spousal violence cases coming to the attention of the police.³ This may be due to a greater willingness on the part of victims to report these incidents to the police. According to the 1993 VAWS and 1999 GSS, the proportion of spousal violence incidents reported to the police increased from 29% to 37%.

Research exploring the declines in intimate partner homicides is relatively new. Only in the past decade has research begun to identify factors that may be contributing to these patterns. The emphasis of this body of research, most from the United States, has been on reduced exposure to violence. In an extensive literature review conducted on behalf of the Department of Justice Canada, Dawson (2001) identifies three important social changes offered as explanations for declining spousal homicide rates: (1) the changing nature of intimate relationships, (2) increasing gender equality and (3) the availability of resources to combat violence and provide assistance to victims.

The purpose of this Juristat is to address two information gaps identified by Dawson (2001): (1) documentation of trends in spousal homicides as well as subgroup variations (i.e. common-law, separated and divorced partners, age group variations, etc.), and (2) identification of factors that may be associated with the decline. Using data from the Homicide Survey and a combination of other statistical data sources this Juristat will examine spousal homicide trends over the period 1974-2000. In 1991 changes were made to the Homicide Survey providing more detailed breakdowns of the relationship between victims and offenders permitting comparisons of married, common-law, separated and divorced couples as well as boyfriends and girlfriends. This allows trends in other intimate partner homicides (e.g. boyfriends and girlfriends) to be examined from 1991-2000. These trends in spousal homicide will be assessed within the context of other factors, including improvements to women's economic and social well-being (e.g. average annual income, delayed marriage and child-rearing), growth in the availability of emergency services for battered women, trends in spousal victims' use of social services, trends in reporting spousal violence to the police, and the evolution of charging and prosecution policies.

² While the 1999 GSS and the 1993 VAWS used a similar module of questions to measure spousal violence, comparisons between the two must be made with caution due to the somewhat different approaches undertaken. For example, the VAWS contained a single focus on acts of male violence against women. By contrast, the 1999 GSS was a multi-faceted crime victimization survey and was much broader in focus. In the GSS only those who had contact with a previous spouse during the five years preceding the survey were questioned about violence in relationships. In the VAWS, all women with current or previous partners were asked these questions. Furthermore, results of the GSS are based on interviews with a sample of women and men 15 years of age and older while respondents to the VAWS were 18 years and older.

³ Based on data from 106 police agencies in 6 provinces that have consistently participated in the Revised Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR2) Survey since 1995, the number of spousal violence cases reported to these agencies increased from a rate of 30.6 to 32.9 per 10,000 women and from 3.6 to 6.0 per 10,000 men. These data are not nationally representative.

PATTERNS IN INTIMATE PARTNER HOMICIDE RATES

Since 1974, there has been a decline in both the overall rate of family homicides recorded in Canada and in family homicides as a percentage of total homicides. Looking at the initial three years of this period (1974 to 1976) compared to the final three (1998 to 2000), the number of family homicides as a percentage of total homicides in Canada decreased from 35% to 27% (Table 1).⁴ Spousal homicides decreased from 18% to 13% of the total between these two time periods and other family homicides decreased from 17% to 14% of total homicides.

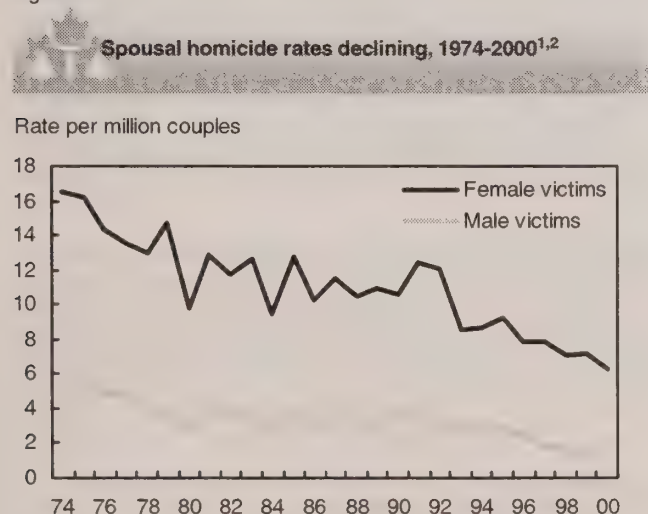
Since 1974, nearly 2,600 spousal homicides have been recorded in Canada; more than three-quarters have been against women (Table 2).

While spousal homicide rates⁵ for both women and men have fluctuated over the past two decades, they have generally declined between 1974 and 2000⁶ (Figure 1). In this time period, the homicide rate for women decreased by 62%, from 16.5 to 6.3 women per million couples and the homicide rate for men dropped by more than half from 4.4 to 2.0 men per million couples. Browne and Williams (1993) contend that this downward trend in marital homicide may be due, in part, to the increasing shift from marital to unmarried relationships.

Declines in most forms of intimate partner homicides

Between the first (1991-1995) and second (1996-2000) halves of the 1990s, there was a noticeable decline in the overall number and rate of most forms of intimate partner homicide (Table 3).

Figure 1



¹ Rate per 1,000,000 legally married, separated, divorced, and common-law males and females. Rates are based on population estimates. Demography Division, July 1, 2001. Homicide numbers for 1999 are revised.

² Four same-sex partners were excluded from the analysis because Census data on same-sex couples are unavailable and therefore rates cannot be calculated.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics. Homicide Survey.

Over the ten-year period, homicide rates were highest among separated (37.4 wives per million separated couples) and common-law women (29.5 wives per million common-law couples). While rates of homicide decreased for separated women, one of the biggest declines was in the rate for women in common-law relationships, which decreased from 35.8 to 24.2 women per million common-law couples.⁷ The rate at which divorced women were killed decreased from 2.3 to 1.2 women per million divorced couples,⁸ however this involved a very small number of cases, 15 over the ten-year period.

For men, rates of spousal homicide were highest in common-law relationships and the largest decline occurred for this group. Homicide rates of men in common-law relationships decreased from 17.9 to 7.8 men per million common-law couples.⁹ Over this time period there was a non-significant change in the rate at which separated husbands were killed.

Homicide rates among other intimate partners¹⁰ also declined over this time period¹¹ with the exception of a recent increase in female homicide rates between 1998 and 2000 (Figure 2)¹². Researchers in the United States (Browne and Williams, 1993; Dugan et al., 1999; Rosenfeld, 2000) found a decrease in lethal violence among married couples and an increase in such violence between women and men in unmarried relationships. The Canadian data do not support this finding. In fact, in Canada, rates of homicide have been declining among most intimate relationship types.

Young separated women at highest risk

In the past 27 years, women under the age of 25 were killed at a rate of 21.2 women per million couples compared to 6.6 for male victims in the same age category. Over this time period, there were declines in the rates at which women and men were killed in most age groups (Figure 3). Declines among women were shown in most age groups,¹³ while for men, those

⁴ Because of the small number of spousal homicides recorded each year, and in order to create a more robust sample, three-year time periods were used.

⁵ Presenting the data as a rate instead of raw numbers controls for changes in the number of people who are married, separated or living common-law.

⁶ Both the male and female spousal homicide rates showed statistically significant decreases over the period 1974 to 2000 ($p \leq .01$). The difference between the female and the male spousal homicide rate is also statistically significant. This indicates that the rate of decline in the female spousal homicide rate is significantly higher than the rate of decline for the male spousal homicide rate.

⁷ This is a significant year-to-year decline ($p \leq .01$).

⁸ This is a significant year-to-year decline ($p \leq .05$).

⁹ This is a significant year-to-year decline ($p \leq .01$).

¹⁰ Other intimate partners include boyfriends, girlfriends, extra-marital lovers and estranged lovers.

¹¹ The homicide rate for other intimate partners showed significant decreases ($p \leq .10$) for women, and non-significant decreases for men.

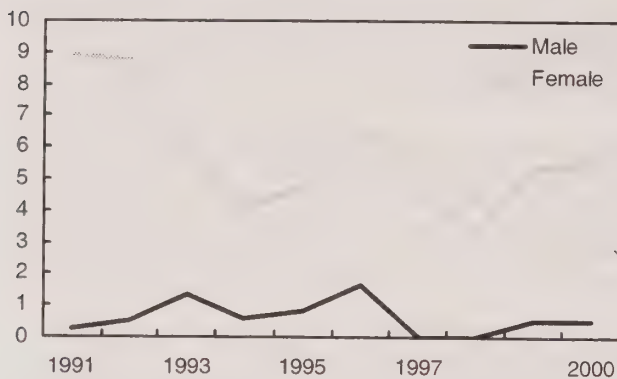
¹² Since 1991, 200 homicides among other intimate partners have been recorded in Canada, the vast majority of which have been against women (89% or 177 victims). Due to the small number of male victims ($N=23$) over this 10-year time period, analysis of other intimates focuses mainly on women.

¹³ The decline in homicide rates among 15-24 year old women was non-significant; however the declines among women in all other age categories were significant ($p \leq .01$).

Figure 2

Rates of other intimate partner^{1,2} homicides, 1991-2000

Rate per million single population 15 years and over



¹ Other intimate partners include boyfriends, girlfriends, extra-marital lovers and estranged lovers. Eleven same-sex partners were excluded from this analysis because Census data on same-sex couples is unavailable and therefore rates cannot be calculated. Homicide numbers for 1999 are revised.

² Rates are based on the number of single people aged 15 and over in the population so may underestimate the true rate as a proportion of single people are without intimate partners and some have multiple partners.

Rates are based on population estimates, Demography Division, July 1, 2001.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Homicide Survey.

15-24 experienced a slight increase¹⁴ in spousal homicide rates and those 35 and older¹⁵ showed a steady decline in rates.

There is a combined effect of age and marital status on the risk of spousal homicide. Between 1991 and 2000, young (15-24 years) separated women were killed at a rate of 113.4 women per million separated couples compared to 9.5 women per million separated couples 55 years and older (Table 4). Homicide rates of young (15-24 years) separated men were also high (44.1 per million separated couples 15-24 years old. This figure should be used cautiously as it is based on very low counts).

Age patterns were different for other intimate partner homicides. Rates of homicide by other intimate partners were higher among older women and men. Rates were highest among 35-54 year old women (12.0 per million single population 35-54 years of age), followed by 25-34 year old women (7.5 per million single population 25-34 years of age), whereas rates for women under 25 were 3.7 per million single population 15-24 years of age.

Provincial spousal homicide rates declining

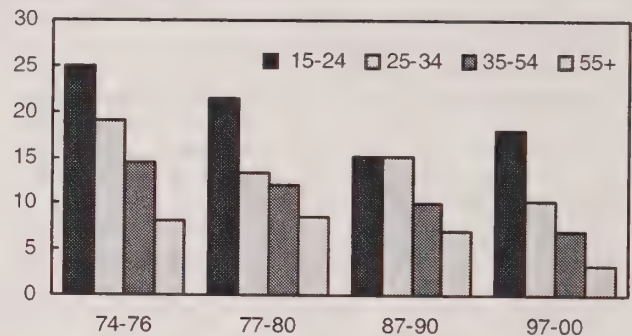
As with rates of overall violent crime in Canada, the Western provinces have the highest provincial rates of spousal homicide (Logan, 2001). From 1974 to 2000, rates of spousal homicide involving men and women have been higher in the Prairie provinces (Figure 4). For women, rates were highest in Manitoba (16.1 women per million couples), while for men rates were highest in Saskatchewan (7.1). The lowest rates of

Figure 3

Rates of spousal homicide against women have declined in most age groups¹

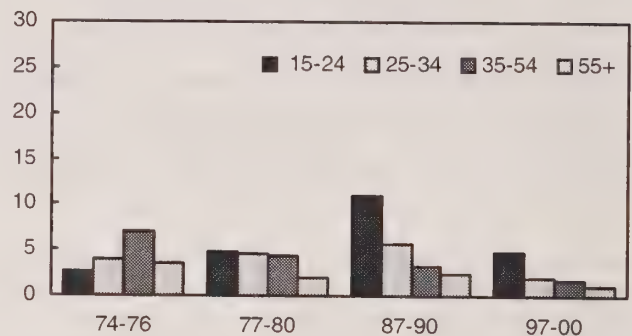
Female victims

Rate per million couples



Male victims

Rate per million couples



¹ Rate per 1,000,000 legally married, separated, divorced and common-law males and females by age group. Rates are based on population estimates, Demography Division, July 1, 2001.

Homicide numbers for 1999 are revised.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Homicide Survey.

spousal homicide involving women were recorded in Newfoundland and Labrador (4.1 women per million couples) and in Prince Edward Island for homicides involving men (1.0 men per million couples). Over this time period, rates of spousal homicide decreased in some provinces, partly due to small counts in many.¹⁶

¹⁴ This is a significant increase ($p \leq .10$).

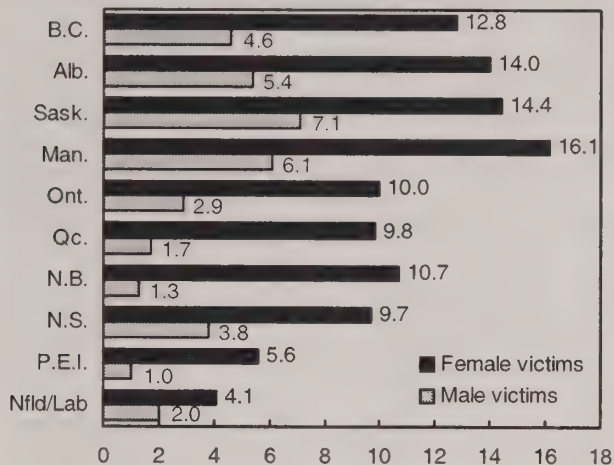
¹⁵ These were significant declines ($p \leq .01$).

¹⁶ Declines for women were significant in Quebec ($p \leq .01$), Ontario ($p \leq .01$), Manitoba ($p \leq .10$), Alberta ($p \leq .05$) and British Columbia ($p \leq .01$). Declines for men were significant in Ontario ($p \leq .01$) and British Columbia ($p \leq .05$). All others were non-significant. Numbers are too small in many provinces to present annual rates in a table and too small to allow analysis of other intimate partners.

Figure 4

Prairie provinces have the highest rates of spousal homicide, 1974-2000¹

Average rate per million couples



¹ Rate per 1,000,000 legally married, separated, divorced and common-law males and females.

Rates are based on population estimates, Demography Division, July 1, 2001.

Homicide numbers for 1999 are revised.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Homicide Survey.

Rates highest in the territories

Although few spousal homicides were committed in the three territories, small populations elevate the rates to the highest in the country. Between 1974 and 2000 the homicide rate for women in the Northwest Territories was seven times the national average (77.8 women per million couples), and four times the national average in the Yukon (47.3 women per million couples). Similarly, male homicide rates were fourteen times higher in the Northwest Territories (48.0 men per million couples) and six times higher in the Yukon (21.5 men per million couples). There have been two spousal homicides in Nunavut since 1999.

Shooting and stabbing the most common causes of death in spousal homicides

Firearms were the most frequently used weapon in the commission of spousal homicides between 1974 and 2000, accounting for the death of more than one in three victims (Table 5). By comparison, in non-spousal homicides, physical force was more likely to be the cause of death (30%).

Women were more likely than men to be killed with firearms (40% versus 26%). In contrast, men were more likely than women to be killed with knives or sharp objects (58% versus 23%). Women were also more likely than men to die as a result of physical force: beatings and strangulation were more frequently the cause of death for wives (32%) than husbands (10%).

Stabbing the most common cause of death among other intimate partners

Knives were the most frequently used weapons by both men and women in the commission of homicides among other intimate partners between 1991 and 2000, accounting for the death of more than one in three victims (37%) (Table 6). Men¹⁷ were more likely than women to die from knife wounds (48% versus 36%).

Decline in the use of firearms

Significant decreases have occurred in the use of firearms in spousal and other intimate partner homicides. While firearms are the most frequently used weapons in the commission of homicides of wives, the rate at which both wives and husbands have been killed by firearms declined between 1974 and 2000 (Figure 5). The proportion of homicides involving firearms also declined over this time period.

In 1974, 7.7 wives per million couples were murdered with a firearm compared to 1.8 in 2000, a decrease of 77%.¹⁸ Similarly, the rate at which husbands were murdered with a firearm over this time period decreased from 2.0 husbands per million couples to 0.4, a decrease of 80%.¹⁹

The rate at which wives were murdered by physical force also declined by 68% (6.2 wives per million couples in 1974 to 2.0 in 2000).²⁰ The rate at which husbands were killed by knives decreased by 35% from 2.0 husbands per million couples in 1974 to 1.3 in 2000.²¹

Similar declines were evident in the rate at which women²² have been killed by firearms and physical force in other intimate partner relationships (Figure 6). There was a non-significant increase in the rate at which women in other intimate relationships were killed by knives.

Previous domestic violence a factor in spousal homicides

Between 1991 and 2000, there was a history of reported domestic violence between victims and perpetrators in 58% of spousal homicides.²³ A slightly higher proportion of cases in which husbands were victims had a reported history of domestic violence (63%) compared to cases in which wives were victims (56%). Furthermore, a history of domestic violence was more likely to be reported in separated unions (73%) than among those who were currently married (44%). This may be due to victims' increased willingness to report violence once a union has ended. According to the 1999 GSS, police were involved in 26% of spousal violence cases involving female victims in intact relationships and 55% of cases where violence occurred following separation. A similar pattern, but with lower reporting rates, was observed for men: 6% reported

¹⁷ Based on a small number of male victims (N=23).

¹⁸ This is a significant decline ($p \leq .01$).

¹⁹ This is a significant decline ($p \leq .01$).

²⁰ This is a significant decline ($p \leq .01$).

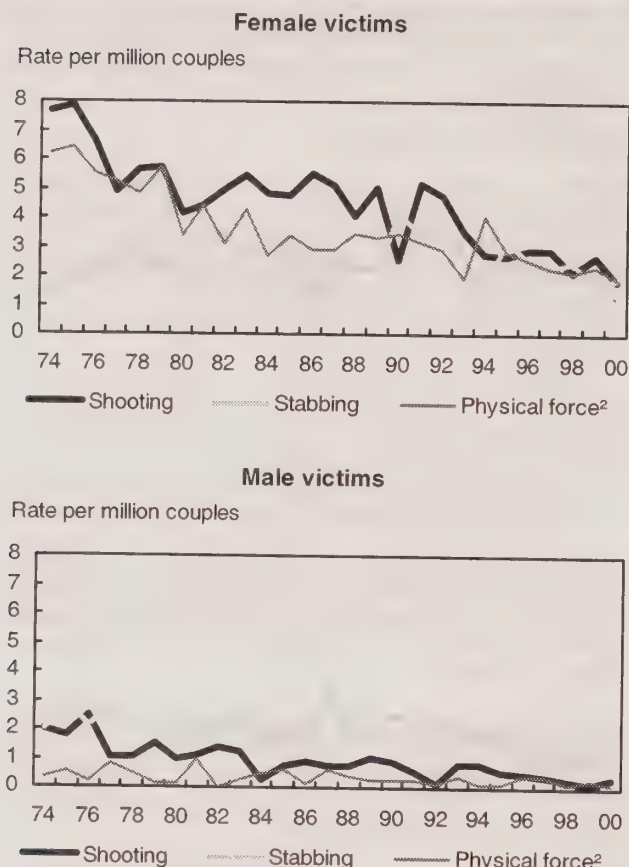
²¹ This is a significant decline ($p \leq .01$).

²² Numbers are too low for male victims to describe any discernable patterns.

²³ History of domestic violence is only collected for family homicides from 1991 forward and is not available for other intimate relationships.

Figure 5

Use of firearms in spousal homicide decreasing, 1974-2000¹



¹ Rate per 1,000,000 legally married, separated, divorced and common-law males and females. Rates are based on population estimates, Demography Division, July 1, 2001.

Homicide numbers for 1999 are revised.

² Physical force includes beating, strangulation, suffocation and compressing.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Homicide Survey.

violence in intact marriages compared to 30% in relationships where violence occurred after separation. The percentage of cases citing a history of domestic violence known to the police has increased over the past 10 years, from 53% to 67%. It is not known whether this is due to an actual increase, improved reporting and recording practices among police, or to a change in police awareness due to changes in charging policies.

Prior criminal convictions

Over half (53%) of all spousal homicides committed between 1991 and 2000 involved accused persons who had a prior criminal conviction (Table 7). The largest percentage was for violent offences (33%). Women were more likely than men to be murdered by a spouse with a prior conviction for a violent offence (35% versus 25%). The percentage of accused with a criminal history varied between 42% and 62% over the ten-year period.

Box 1

Firearm legislation

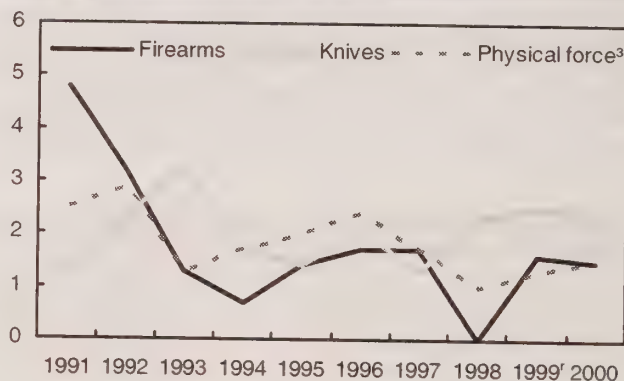
Important changes have been made to Canadian firearm legislation in an effort to reduce the level of firearm-related injury and death, including amendments to the Criminal Code in 1969, 1977, 1991 and 1995. They can be summarized as follows:

- 1969 Parliament enacted Bill C-150 which, for the first time, made it illegal to provide firearms to persons of "unsound mind" or convicted criminals under prohibition orders. The definition of a "firearm" was also expanded to include non-restricted, restricted and prohibited weapons.
- 1977 Amendments were enacted (Bill C-51) requiring a Firearms Acquisition Certificate (FAC) prior to obtaining a firearm. The legislation also introduced a variety of provisions including regulations on safe storage and display of firearms for businesses and bona-fide gun collectors, and mandatory minimum sentences to deter the criminal use of firearms.
- 1991 Parliament strengthened the screening provisions for FAC applicants (Bill C-17) including the applicant's personal and criminal history, personal references, photograph and a mandatory 28-day waiting period.
- 1995 Parliament created strict new penalties for trafficking and smuggling firearms and tougher mandatory minimum sentences for serious offences involving firearms (Bill C-68). All firearm owners and users are now required to obtain a firearm license, and all firearms have to be registered by January 2003 (this includes non-restricted rifles and shotguns).

Over the course of this time period, there has been a noticeable drop in firearm-related violent crime, although a definitive cause-and-effect relationship between gun-control legislation and crime rates is difficult to corroborate.

Figure 6

Use of firearms in other intimate partner homicides involving females declining, 1991-2000^{1,2}



¹ Other intimate partners include boyfriends, girlfriends, extra-marital lovers and estranged lovers. Eleven same-sex partners were excluded from this analysis because Census data on same-sex couples is unavailable and rates therefore cannot be calculated.

² Rates are based on the number of single people aged 15 and over in the population so may underestimate the true rate as a proportion of single people are without intimate partners and some have multiple partners. Rates are based on population estimates, Demography Division, July 1, 2001.

³ Physical force includes beating, strangulation, suffocation and compressing.

Homicide numbers for 1999 are revised.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Homicide Survey.

Other intimate partner homicides involved a higher percentage of accused with prior criminal convictions (64%). Again, many were for violent offences (42%) and women were more likely than men to be murdered by someone with a history of violent offences (42% versus 35%).

Male victims more likely to be the first to use force in spousal homicides

In many cases of spousal homicide, men were more likely than women to initiate violent incidents that resulted in their death. Although information was missing in 41% of cases overall, male victims (25%) were eight times more likely than female victims (3%) to be the first to use force in incidents resulting in homicide.

Arguments and jealousy motivate the majority of intimate partner homicides

In cases of spousal homicide, the most frequently cited motive was an argument (47%) followed by jealousy (21%). Jealousy was more often the motivating factor in cases involving women (25% versus 8% of cases involving male victims).

Men more likely to commit suicide following homicide

In more than one in five spousal homicides, the incident culminated in the suicide of the accused. But it is almost entirely a male phenomenon. Between 1974 and 2000, more than a quarter of male perpetrators (28%) and 3% of female perpetrators took their lives following the incident, a total of 564 men and 15 women.

Looking more specifically at relationship types, between 1991 and 2000, men who were separated from marital partners (51%) and men who were married (37%) were the most likely to commit suicide following the homicide. Fourteen percent of boyfriends took their lives following the incident. Between 1991 and 2000 only five women committed suicide following any type of intimate partner homicide.

WHY THE DECLINE IN SPOUSAL HOMICIDES?

Research in the United States

A number of reasons have been advanced to explain declining spousal homicide rates. The majority of this research, to date, has occurred in the United States (Dawson, 2001) and explanations point primarily to exposure reduction. For example, marriage rates among young adults, the age group at highest risk of homicide victimization, have been declining. As the proportion of young people getting married has declined, exposure to violence in the highest-risk age groups may be reduced. Furthermore, the increase in the age of first marriage may reflect greater selectivity among would-be spouses. Both lower rates of marriage and delayed entry into marriage may result in an overall reduction in both lethal and non-lethal violence in relationships (Rosenfeld, 1997; Dugan et al., 1999).

Increasing gender equality over the past several decades, including rising income levels and labor force participation rates among women, are linked to both delayed marriage and

improvements to women's economic status. These factors may have helped expand women's alternatives to either entering into or remaining in a violent relationship (Rosenfeld, 1997; Dugan et al., 1999).

Finally, the rising availability of domestic violence services and policy responses to the issue of domestic violence have also been advanced as possible explanations for declining spousal homicide rates in the U.S (Browne & Williams, 1989; Dutton-Douglas & Dione, 1991).

The Canadian context

In Canada, similar changes have occurred. There has been a change in living arrangements between women and men over the past 27 years. The rate of marriage, especially among young adults, has been declining. In 1980, 61% of 20-24 year olds had never been married; increasing to 81% by 2000 (Statistics Canada, Cansim Table, 051-0010). The age at first marriage has consequently increased: in 1974, the average age of first marriage for women was 22 years (24 years for men), and in 1997, it was 28 years (30 years for men) (Villeneuve and Geran, Statistics Canada, Cat No. 84-212). On the other hand, the percentage of women and men living with common-law partners has also increased from 3.8% of women in 1981 (4.0% of men) to 8.0% in 1996 (8.4% for men) (Statistics Canada, 2000), which theoretically would increase the risk of spousal violence and homicide given the higher rates among women and men living in common-law relationships.

Furthermore, average annual earnings among employed women and men increased between 1980 and 1999 (Statistics Canada, Cat. No. 13F0022); a higher percentage of both women and men have been pursuing post-secondary education; and, women's labour force participation rate has increased from 46% in 1974 to 60% in 2000 (Statistics Canada, Cat. No. 71F0004). Women are also waiting longer before entering into child-rearing, and are having, on average, fewer children which may result in greater financial independence. Birth rates among younger women (15 to 29) have decreased and the average age at the birth of first child has increased by three years, from 24 years in 1974 to 27 years in 1997 (Statistics Canada, Cat. No. 89-503). All of these social changes have provided both women and men with increased opportunities for economic independence which may help provide alternatives to remaining in abusive situations which, in turn, may help avoid escalation of violence to homicide.

Correlations between changing living arrangements, increasing gender equality and declining spousal homicides

Box 2

What is a correlation ?

Bi-variate correlations measure the linear relationship between two continuous variables. Correlation coefficients range in value from -1 (a perfect negative relationship) to +1 (a perfect positive relationship). A value of 0 indicates no linear relationship. A negative relationship indicates that the variables are moving in opposite directions; for example, as one variable increases the other variable decreases. A positive relationship indicates that the variables are moving in the same direction; for example, as one variable increases so does the other.

Bi-variate correlations were calculated to determine the relationship between changing living arrangements, increasing gender equality and declining spousal homicide rates in Canada.²⁴ Other economic and demographic factors were also included in order to explore the relationship between declining spousal homicide rates and changing societal levels of economic inequality, alcohol consumption and population shifts. This analysis covers the period 1980 to 1997 due to the availability of all variables for that time period and examines female spousal homicide rates and male spousal homicide rates. Variables chosen for analysis are listed in Table 8.

Results of the correlation analysis show that many of the independent variables are strongly correlated with rates of spousal homicide²⁷ (Table 9). Negatively correlated²⁸ with female spousal homicide rates were: average age of women and men at first marriage; average age of women at birth of first child; average annual earnings of employed women; employment rate of women with children under three and the proportion of the female and male population 35-39 years of age who are married or divorced. Positively correlated²⁹ with female spousal homicide rates were: societal levels of alcohol consumption, percentage of families where husbands are sole earners; proportion of the population with high school or less, proportion of the population who are 15-24 years old and 25-34 years old, and the proportion of the female and male population 20-24, 25-29 and 30-34 years of age who are married or divorced. Male spousal homicide rates also correlated strongly with these variables with the exception of: proportion of employed women with youngest child under 3, percentage of families where the husband is the sole earner, proportion of the male population who are 20-24 and 35-39 years of age and married or divorced, as well as the proportion of the female population who are 20-24 years of age and married or divorced.

- ²⁴ This section was developed with the assistance of Lori Stratychuk, Senior Methodologist, Household Survey Methods Division.
- ²⁵ Includes persons who were separated or living common-law.
- ²⁶ Education levels have been increasing for both men and women and produce similar correlations with male and female spousal homicide rates. As a result, a general education variable was used in this analysis.
- ²⁷ Many of these variables could be used as a proxy indicator of women's changing economic status (average age at birth of first child, average age at first marriage, higher education, higher earnings, employment rates of women with children under 3, husband sole earner), however due to high levels of collinearity among the variables, only one variable could be selected for regression analysis. Because of its far-reaching impacts on the other variables, as well as having the best correlation with the spousal homicide rates, the average age of women at first marriage was chosen as the proxy for changing economic status of women in this model. Additional variables which were used in the regression include: total unemployment rate (as a proxy for general economic conditions), as well as the proportion of the population 15-24 years of age (the highest risk age group for spousal homicide). These variables were available for the time period 1974-1998. In the forward regression model of spousal homicides rates, for both women and men, the only variable which was found to have a significant impact was the average age of women at first marriage. This suggests that factors related to reduced exposure to violence through delayed marriage (and subsequently delayed child rearing, increased education and increased earnings) and factors related to increased gender equality are associated with reduced rates of spousal homicide against both women and men.
- ²⁸ A negative correlation means that as each variable increased (i.e. the average age of first marriage for women and men) spousal homicide rates decreased.
- ²⁹ A positive correlation means that as each variable decreased (i.e. the percentage of families where only the husband was employed) spousal homicide rates also decreased.

Table 8

| CHANGING INTIMATE RELATIONSHIPS: | GENDER EQUALITY: | ECONOMIC AND DEMOGRAPHIC FACTORS: |
|--|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Average age of first marriage for men and women • Birth rates for women: 15-19, 20-24, 25-29 and 30-34 years of age • Average age of women at birth of first child • Proportion of the female population who are 20-24, 25-29, 30-34, and 35-39 years old and are married²⁵ or divorced. • Proportion of the male population who are 20-24, 25-29, 30-34, and 35-39 years old and are married or divorced | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Average annual earnings of employed women and men • Proportion of families where the husband is the sole earner • Proportion of employed women with youngest child under 3 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proportion of families living in low income situations • Proportion of families receiving social assistance • Proportion of families receiving Employment Insurance • Proportion of unemployed males and females 15-24 and 25-34 years of age • Proportion of the population 15 and over with high school or less²⁶ • Per capita rates of alcohol consumption • Proportion of the population 15-24 and 25-34 years of age |

These results suggest that changing intimate relationships and increasing gender equality may be important factors associated with the decline in spousal homicide. These are factors that may help reduce exposure to violence and provide couples with alternatives to staying in violent relationships or those that are at risk of violence. Perhaps by marrying later, men and women are more selective in whom they marry. There are also fewer couples in the higher-risk younger age group, which may also help reduce exposure to violence. Marrying later and delaying child rearing may also allow time to acquire higher education and establish careers. Delayed child rearing and increasing percentages of women entering or re-entering the labour market while their children are young may result in greater financial independence for women and greater financial security for families, which in turn may help reduce violence and facilitate leaving if a relationship turns violent. As increasing numbers of women have been entering the work force, the percentage of families where only the husband works has declined, which also points to growing access to financial resources for women and families.

A number of economic variables were found to be non-significant. The unemployment rate of men and women in various age groups, average annual earnings of men, the proportion of low income families, the proportion of families receiving social assistance and the proportion of families receiving employment insurance were not significantly correlated with spousal homicide rates of either women or men. The lack of a significant relationship between these variables suggests that general economic measures are less important than measures of gender equality as potential factors contributing to the drop in spousal homicide rates.

Resource Availability

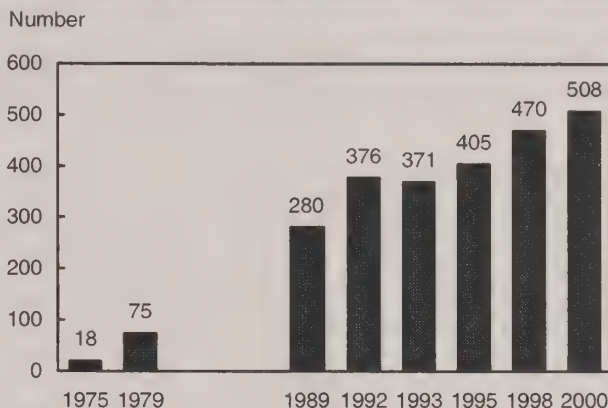
Over the past 27 years, governments and community groups have invested considerable effort and resources in addressing the problem of family violence. The resulting innovations in policy, legislation and services for victims may have made important contributions toward reducing spousal homicide. The literature suggests that these changes may have also had secondary effects so that both sanctioning agencies and the general public respond with greater negativity to such crimes than in the past (Dawson, 2001). The following section outlines some of the major initiatives undertaken over the past two decades.

Expansion of emergency shelters and treatment programs

Official records have been kept on women's shelters since 1975, when only 18 shelters existed in Canada. Between 1975 and 1999, there was a relatively steady increase in the number of new shelters being established, particularly between 1979 and 1992 when over 200 new shelters were opened. By 1999, 508 shelters were in operation throughout Canada (Figure 7). Currently, no shelters exist in Canada that provide residential services exclusively to adult male victims of family violence. Results of the 1999-2000 Transition Home Survey indicate that the majority of facilities (90%) had a policy that did not allow adult males to be admitted to their facility (Locke and Code, 2000).

Figure 7

Number of shelters for battered women has increased since 1975



No data are available on the number of shelters between 1980 and 1988.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Transition Home Survey.

Investments by community groups, Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC), Indian and Northern Affairs Canada, and provincial/territorial governments have contributed to this development of a substantial system of shelters for abused women in Canada. Currently, every province and territory provides residential services for abused women. These facilities offer not only a safe environment, but also a broad range of services for women and children living in shelters and in the larger community.

Along with the increase in the number of shelters across the country there has been a rise in the number of women using shelters in recent years from 45,777 in 1992/93 to 57,182 in 1999/2000.³⁰ The vast majority of these women (about 80%) were admitted for reasons of abuse. Other reasons included mental illness, addiction problems and homelessness.

Rates of use may more accurately reflect the availability of shelters than the actual need for emergency housing among abused women and their children. According to the 2000 Transition Home Survey, 2,826 women and 2,525 children were admitted to shelters on a single day (April 17, 2000). On the same day, 254 women (representing 9% of the total admitted) and 222 children (9%) were turned away. Most were turned away because the shelters were full (71%) and the remainder because of drug/alcohol, mental illness or other problems.³¹

³⁰ An important factor affecting the number of women and children reporting using shelters includes changing availability over time as well as the changing number of shelters that respond to the Transition Home Survey each year. For example, 89% of shelters responded to the survey in 1993, and 83% in 2000. Consequently, these figures represent an underestimate of the number of women and children admitted to shelters each year.

³¹ Some women and children may be turned away from more than one shelter on a single day, or may be counted as turned away at one shelter while being admitted to another on the same day. Women who are admitted to a shelter more than once during the year will also be counted more than once.

Although incomplete, records have been maintained on treatment programs for violent men since 1984, when only 28 programs operated in Canada. The number of programs has risen steadily to at least 204 in 1999³² (Health Canada, Cat. H72-21/107).

The growing availability of emergency shelters, along with other services for spousal violence victims, may have contributed to recent declines in the rates of both lethal and non-lethal violence against women.

Victims use of services

Victimization surveys have found that a minority of spousal violence victims report these crimes to the police, but that this percentage has grown in recent years for women victims³³ from 29% in 1993 to 37% in 1999 (percentages refer to the 5-year period preceding each of these surveys). The percentage of women who contacted a social service for help also increased from 37% in 1993 to 48% in 1999. Male victims were much less likely to report to the police (15%) or to use social services (17%) in 1999. This may be due to a lack of services for male victims or the less severe nature of the violence experienced by male victims. While the 1999 GSS found that 5-year rates of violence were similar for women and men, women were abused more severely. For example, women were more likely to be subjected to severe forms of violence (e.g. beaten, choked, sexually assaulted), were three times more likely to suffer injury, five times more likely to receive medical attention, and five times more likely to fear for their lives as a result of the violence (Pottie Bunge, 2000).

The decision to report to the police or to use social services will depend on a number of factors, including the availability and awareness of these services, the impact that accessing services may have on other aspects of the victim's life (e.g. custody over children), the response of police to previous calls for help, fear of reprisals by the offender and reluctance due to shame or embarrassment.

Zero-tolerance and no-drop policies

Commencing in 1983, all jurisdictions in Canada adopted mandatory or "pro"-charging and prosecution policies for spousal violence. Generally, these policies require the police to charge in cases of spousal violence where there are reasonable and probable grounds to do so, and the Crown to prosecute where there is a reasonable likelihood of conviction. These policies were introduced as a response to concerns that victims of spousal violence were not receiving adequate protection from the criminal justice system. Transferring the onus of laying charges and of prosecuting to the police and Crown was intended to remove pressure to drop charges from victims and to ensure that spousal violence is treated as a criminal offence.

Specialized Domestic Violence Courts

Some jurisdictions have specialized domestic violence courts. A specialized criminal justice system response was first developed in Winnipeg in 1990. Similar programs in Ontario, Calgary and Whitehorse were implemented more recently. The principal aim of these courts is to expedite domestic violence

cases for the safety of the victim, introduce early intervention for first time offenders, allow for effective investigation and prosecution of these cases and ensure accountability of the offender. Most of these courts have specialized prosecutorial units; specially designated courtrooms and dockets for intake, screening and trials; and special units in the probation office to deliver court-mandated treatment programs.

Legislative and policy changes

In 1993, the offence of criminal harassment, also known as "stalking," was introduced to the *Criminal Code*. Section 264 of the *Criminal Code* defines criminal harassment as behaviour that causes a person to fear for their safety such as repeatedly following them, communicating with them, and or watching them continually, against their wishes.

Although criminal harassment is not gender-specific, the legislation was mainly introduced as a response to violence against women, in particular domestic violence against women (Department of Justice, 1999). Several highly publicized cases of women being stalked and killed by estranged partners in the early 1990s provided the impetus for this legislation, with the idea that early intervention in response to stalking might prevent the escalation of violence.

In 2000, three-quarters of incidents of criminal harassment reported to the police were directed at female victims.³⁴ In half of these incidents, women were stalked by persons who were, for example, ex-spouses (including ex-common-law partners) and boyfriends. The number of male ex-spouses and boyfriends known to police for stalking has risen in recent years (Figure 8). It is difficult to know whether these trends are a reflection of increased police attention to these crimes or increased willingness on the part of victims to report to police, as can happen following implementation of a new law. Research in the U.S. suggests that in a majority of stalking cases involving estranged male partners there were previous assaults by those same partners (Tjaden and Thoennes, 1998).

The number of females accused of stalking their partners has also increased over this time period (1995-2000). However, females continue to represent a small percentage of those accused of criminal harassment.

Court decisions like *R. v. Lavallee* in 1990 that established the Battered Women's Defence recognized that some battered women kill abusive husbands following escalating violence in order to protect themselves from perceived imminent death. This was part of a societal change that recognized the difficulty in leaving some violent relationships.

³² This list is not comprehensive and excludes programs conducted within correctional institutions.

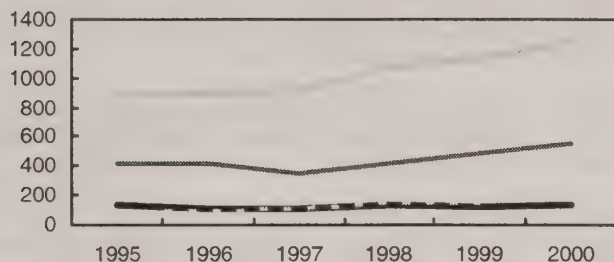
³³ Data are unavailable for male victims for 1993. See footnote 2 for further explanation.

³⁴ Based on data from 106 police agencies that reported to the Revised UCR Survey from 1995-2000. These 106 forces accounted for 41% of all Criminal Code incidents reported to the police in 2000 and the data are not nationally representative.

Figure 8

Criminal harassment by intimate partners, 1995-2000¹

Number of victims



Accused - victim relationship:

- Husband
- - - Ex-husband
- ... Boyfriend
- . - Female partner²

¹ Based on data available from 106 police agencies that reported to the Revised UCR Survey from 1995-2000. These 106 forces accounted for 41% of all Criminal Code Incidents reported to the police in 2000 and the data are not nationally representative.

² Due to small numbers, female partners cannot be further broken down and include current wives, ex-wives and girlfriends.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Revised Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

Civil legislation

In addition to charging or prosecution policies, several jurisdictions have enacted, or are about to enact, domestic violence legislation. This legislation is intended to provide protection to victims of domestic violence. The component most common to all family violence acts is the emergency intervention/protection order, which is essentially a short-term order available immediately, with the victim's consent, where family violence has occurred and the situation is urgent or serious. Also available in most jurisdictions are victim assistance orders which are longer-term. These orders can address issues such as visitation and financial matters and may replace emergency intervention orders.

Summary

In the past 27 years there has been a notable decline in spousal homicides against both men and women. Declines have been noted in most sub-groups, most age groups, most regions of the country, as well as among other types of intimate relationships. The changing nature of intimate relationships and increasing gender equality show a strong association with this decline. Legislative changes, specialized courts, training of criminal justice personnel and increasing resource availability may have also contributed to this decline, although direct causal relationships are difficult to establish.

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Table 1

Total homicides by relationship of victim to accused, 1974-2000

| | 1974-2000 | | 1974-1976 | | 1998-2000 | |
|---------------------------------------|---------------|------------|---------------|------------|---------------|------------|
| | Total victims | | Total victims | | Total victims | |
| | No. | % | No. | % | No. | % |
| Total family homicides | 5,296 | 31 | 687 | 35 | 445 | 27 |
| Total spousal ¹ | 2,598 | 15 | 348 | 18 | 208 | 13 |
| Husband | 594 | 3 | 84 | 4 | 39 | 2 |
| Wife | 2,000 | 12 | 264 | 13 | 166 | 10 |
| Same sex spouse ² | 4 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 0 |
| Total other family | 2,698 | 16 | 339 | 17 | 237 | 14 |
| Child | 1,172 | 7 | 131 | 7 | 114 | 7 |
| Parent | 535 | 3 | 69 | 4 | 56 | 3 |
| Sibling | 364 | 2 | 51 | 3 | 22 | 1 |
| Other family | 627 | 4 | 88 | 4 | 45 | 3 |
| Total acquaintance³ | 6,525 | 38 | 652 | 33 | 597 | 36 |
| Stranger | 2,168 | 13 | 277 | 14 | 198 | 12 |
| Other | 12 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 11 | 1 |
| Unsolved | 3,147 | 18 | 353 | 18 | 380 | 23 |
| Unknown relationship | 46 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 7 | 0 |
| Total Homicides⁴ | 17,194 | 100 | 1,969 | 100 | 1,638 | 100 |

Percentages may not total 100% due to rounding.

¹ Includes common-law, legally married, separated and divorced spouses.

² The homicide survey began collecting data on same sex partners in 1997.

³ Includes boyfriends, girlfriends, extra-marital lovers, estranged lovers, same sex relationships, neighbours, legal and illegal business relationships, friends and others.

Prior to 1991 it was not possible to identify intimate partners separately from other acquaintances.

⁴ Homicide numbers for 1999 are revised.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Homicide Survey.

Table 2

Rates of spousal homicides, 1974-2000^{1,2}

| Year | No. | | Rate per million couples | |
|---------------------------|----------------|--------------|--------------------------|--------------|
| | Female victims | Male victims | Female victims | Male victims |
| 1974 | 90 | 24 | 16.5 | 4.4 |
| 1975 | 91 | 33 | 16.2 | 5.9 |
| 1976 | 83 | 27 | 14.4 | 4.7 |
| 1977 | 80 | 29 | 13.6 | 5.0 |
| 1978 | 78 | 23 | 13.0 | 3.9 |
| 1979 | 90 | 22 | 14.7 | 3.7 |
| 1980 | 61 | 17 | 9.8 | 2.8 |
| 1981 | 82 | 27 | 12.9 | 4.3 |
| 1982 | 76 | 22 | 11.7 | 3.5 |
| 1983 | 83 | 27 | 12.6 | 4.2 |
| 1984 | 63 | 17 | 9.4 | 2.6 |
| 1985 | 86 | 25 | 12.7 | 3.8 |
| 1986 | 70 | 19 | 10.2 | 2.8 |
| 1987 | 79 | 34 | 11.5 | 5.0 |
| 1988 | 72 | 21 | 10.4 | 3.1 |
| 1989 | 76 | 22 | 10.9 | 3.2 |
| 1990 | 74 | 26 | 10.6 | 3.8 |
| 1991 | 87 | 25 | 12.4 | 3.6 |
| 1992 | 87 | 18 | 12.1 | 2.6 |
| 1993 | 63 | 24 | 8.5 | 3.3 |
| 1994 | 66 | 20 | 8.7 | 2.7 |
| 1995 | 71 | 21 | 9.2 | 2.8 |
| 1996 | 63 | 19 | 7.9 | 2.5 |
| 1997 | 63 | 13 | 7.9 | 1.7 |
| 1998 | 57 | 13 | 7.1 | 1.7 |
| 1999 [†] | 58 | 10 | 7.2 | 1.3 |
| 2000 | 51 | 16 | 6.3 | 2.0 |
| Total/Average rate | 2,000 | 594 | 11.1 | 3.4 |

¹ Rates per 1,000,000 legally married, separated, divorced and common-law men and women.

Rates are based on population estimates, Demography Division, July 1, 2001.

² Four same-sex partners were excluded from the analysis because Census data on same-sex couples is unavailable and therefore rates cannot be calculated.

[†] Homicide numbers for 1999 are revised.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Homicide Survey.

Table 3

Intimate partner homicide rates by relationship of victim to accused, 1991-2000^{1,2}

| | 1991-2000 | | 1991-1995 | | 1996-2000 | | Percentage change in rate between 1991-1995 and 1996-2000 |
|--|------------|-----------------------|------------|-----------------------|------------|-----------------------|---|
| | No. | Rate per 1,000,000 | No. | Rate per 1,000,000 | No. | Rate per 1,000,000 | |
| Total spousal homicides | 845 | 5.7 | 482 | 6.6 | 363 | 4.8 | -27 |
| Total wife victims | 666 | 8.5 | 374 | 9.7 | 292 | 7.3 | -25 |
| Married | 255 | 4.4 | 150 | 5.2 | 105 | 3.7 | -29 |
| Common-law ³ | 258 | 29.5 | 142 | 35.8 | 116 | 24.2 | -32 |
| Separated | 138 | 37.4 | 73 | 42.1 | 65 | 33.2 | -21 |
| Divorced | 15 | 1.7 | 9 | 2.3 | 6 | 1.2 | -48 |
| Total husband victims | 179 | 2.6 | 108 | 3.1 | 71 | 2.0 | -35 |
| Married | 60 | 1.0 | 34 | 1.2 | 26 | 0.9 | -25 |
| Common-law ⁴ | 110 | 12.4 | 72 | 17.9 | 38 | 7.8 | -56 |
| Separated | 9 | 3.0 | 2 | 1.4 | 7 | 4.4 | 214 |
| Divorced | 0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0.0 | 0 |
| Total other intimate partners^{5,6} | 200 | 1.2 | 112 | 3.3 | 88 | 2.6 | -21 |
| Boyfriend | 15 | 0.4 | 9 | 0.5 | 6 | 0.3 | -40 |
| Girlfriend | 93 | 3.0 | 51 | 3.4 | 42 | 1.9 | -44 |
| Extra-marital lover | 9 | 0.1 | 6 | 0.2 | 3 | 0.1 | -50 |
| Estranged lover | 83 | 1.2 | 46 | 1.4 | 37 | 1.1 | -21 |

¹ Rate per 1,000,000 legally married, separated, divorced and common-law males and females.

Rates based on population estimates, Demography Division, July 1, 2001. Homicide numbers for 1999 are revised.

² Eleven same-sex partners were excluded from the analysis because Census data on same-sex couples is unavailable and therefore rates cannot be calculated.

^{3,4} For the purposes of this study a small number of separated common-law cases originally coded by police as separated have been recoded as common-law. These were identified using the police narratives.

^{5,6} Rate per 1,000,000 single males and females 15 years of age and over. Rates based on population estimates, Demography Division, July 1, 2001 estimates.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Homicide Survey.

Table 4

Rates of spousal homicide by marital status and age, 1991-2000

| | Age groups | | | | Total |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|------------|------------|------------|
| | 15-24 | 25-34 | 35-54 | 55+ | |
| | Rate per million couples | | | | |
| Total female victims | 22.2 | 10.7 | 8.8 | 4.4 | 8.6 |
| Married | 7.6 | 4.6 | 4.5 | 4.1 | 4.4 |
| Common-law ¹ | 28.7 | 23.5 | 37.1 | 21.4 | 29.5 |
| Separated | 113.4 | 51.5 | 37.1 | 9.5 | 37.4 |
| Divorced ² | 18.3 | 3.1 | 2.3 | 0.5 | 2.0 |
| Total male victims | 8.9 | 3.5 | 2.8 | 1.1 | 2.6 |
| Married | 0 | 1.2 | 1.2 | 0.8 | 1.0 |
| Common-law ³ | 13.1 | 10.4 | 14.6 | 9.7 | 12.4 |
| Separated ⁴ | 44.1 | 1.8 | 3.6 | 0.0 | 3.0 |
| Divorced | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |

^{1,3} For the purposes of this study a small number of separated common-law cases originally coded by police as separated have been recoded as common-law. These were identified using the police narratives.

² Rates are based on a total of 15 cases.

⁴ Rates are based on a total of 9 cases.
Homicide numbers for 1999 are revised.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Homicide Survey.

Table 5

Cause of death in spousal homicides, 1974-2000

| Cause of death | Total victims | | Female victims | | Male victims | |
|-----------------------------|---------------|------------|----------------|------------|--------------|------------|
| | No. | % | No. | % | No. | % |
| Shooting | 956 | 37 | 800 | 40 | 156 | 26 |
| Stabbing | 809 | 31 | 463 | 23 | 346 | 58 |
| Physical force ¹ | 707 | 27 | 646 | 32 | 61 | 10 |
| Other ² | 108 | 4 | 78 | 4 | 30 | 5 |
| Unknown | 14 | 1 | 13 | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Total³ | 2,594 | 100 | 2,000 | 100 | 594 | 100 |

Percentages may not total 100% due to rounding.

¹ Physical force includes beating, strangulation, suffocation and compressing.

² Other includes smoke inhalation, burns, exposure, hypothermia, poisoning and lethal injection.

³ Excludes four same-sex couples.

Homicide numbers for 1999 are revised.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Homicide Survey.

Table 6

Cause of death in other intimate partner homicides, 1991-2000¹

| Cause of death | Total victims | | Female victims | | Male victims | |
|-----------------------------|---------------|------------|----------------|------------|--------------|------------|
| | No. | % | No. | % | No. | % |
| Shooting | 61 | 31 | 55 | 31 | 6 | 26 |
| Stabbing | 74 | 37 | 63 | 36 | 11 | 48 |
| Physical force ² | 60 | 30 | 56 | 32 | 4 | 17 |
| Other ³ | 5 | 3 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 9 |
| Total | 200 | 100 | 177 | 100 | 23 | 100 |

Percentages may not total 100% due to rounding.

¹ Other intimate partners include boyfriends, girlfriends, extra-marital and estranged lovers.

Excludes 11 same-sex partners.

² Physical force includes beating, strangulation, suffocation and compressing.

³ Other includes smoke inhalation, burns, exposure, hypothermia, poisoning and lethal injection.

Homicide numbers for 1999 are revised.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Homicide Survey.

Table 7

Accused prior criminal conviction¹ in spousal homicides, 1991-2000

| | Total victims | | Female victims | | Male victims | |
|---|---------------|------------|----------------|------------|--------------|------------|
| | No. | % | No. | % | No. | % |
| Total prior convictions | 434 | 53 | 359 | 54 | 75 | 42 |
| Violent offences | 277 | 33 | 233 | 35 | 44 | 25 |
| Property offences | 72 | 9 | 60 | 9 | 12 | 7 |
| Drug offences | 13 | 2 | 9 | 1 | 4 | 2 |
| Other Criminal Code or Federal Statute offences | 72 | 9 | 57 | 9 | 15 | 8 |
| No previous conviction | 400 | 47 | 297 | 45 | 103 | 58 |
| Unknown | 11 | 1 | 10 | 2 | 1 | 1 |
| Total² | 845 | 100 | 666 | 100 | 179 | 100 |

Percentages may not total 100% due to rounding.

¹ Based on most serious conviction.

² Excludes 4 same-sex couples.

Homicide numbers for 1999 are revised.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Homicide Survey.

Table 9

Correlations between spousal homicide rates and other variables, 1980-1997

| | Female spousal homicide rate | Male spousal homicide rate |
|--|------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Average age at first marriage for women | -0.609 *** | -0.511 ** |
| Average age at first marriage for men | -0.608 *** | -0.512 ** |
| Average age of women at birth of first child | -0.511 ** | -0.420 * |
| Average annual earnings of employed women | -0.568 ** | -0.490 ** |
| Employment rate of women with youngest child under 3 | -0.491 ** | -0.388 ns |
| Alcohol consumption | 0.601 *** | 0.562 ** |
| Percentage of families where husband is the sole earner | 0.445 * | 0.351 ns |
| Population with less than high school education | 0.605 *** | 0.512 ** |
| Population 15-24 | 0.516 ** | 0.418 * |
| Population 25-34 | 0.644 *** | 0.602 *** |
| Percentage of male population 20-24 years old married ¹ or divorced | 0.407 * | 0.342 ns |
| Percentage of male population 25-29 years old married ¹ or divorced | 0.538 ** | 0.477 ** |
| Percentage of male population 30-34 years old married ¹ or divorced | 0.538 ** | 0.537 ** |
| Percentage of male population 35-39 years old married ¹ or divorced | -0.464 * | -0.330 ns |
| Percentage of female population 20-24 years old married ¹ or divorced | 0.432 * | 0.367 ns |
| Percentage of female population 25-29 years old married ¹ or divorced | 0.569 ** | 0.499 ** |
| Percentage of female population 30-34 years old married ¹ or divorced | 0.544 ** | 0.613 *** |
| Percentage of female population 35-39 years old married ¹ or divorced | -0.529 ** | -0.418 * |
| Unemployment rate of 15-24 year old females | -0.105 ns | -0.225 ns |
| Unemployment rate of 25-34 year old females | 0.095 ns | 0.097 ns |
| Unemployment rate of 15-24 year old males | 0.092 ns | -0.092 ns |
| Unemployment rate of 25-34 year old males | -0.068 ns | -0.177 ns |
| Average annual earnings of employed men | -0.033 ns | -0.011 ns |
| Proportion of low income families | -0.155 ns | -0.109 ns |
| Proportion of families receiving social assistance | -0.375 ns | -0.162 ns |
| Proportion of families receiving employment insurance | 0.367 ns | 0.163 ns |

¹ According to Census, separated persons and those living common-law are included in the married category.

Based on 18 degrees of freedom. Because certain variables were available only for the period 1980-1997, the correlational analysis was limited to this time frame, which allowed 18 degrees of freedom.

* $p \leq .10$

** $p \leq .05$

*** $p \leq .01$

ns = not significant

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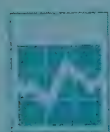
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CRIME STATISTICS IN CANADA, 2001

by Josée Savoie

Highlights

- After having decreased for the previous nine years, Canada's crime rate increased slightly (+1%) in 2001. About 55,000 more *Criminal Code* incidents were reported by police in 2001 as compared to 2000. The crime rate was about the same level as in 1979.
- Of the 2.4 million *Criminal Code* incidents (excluding traffic), 13% were violent crimes, 52% were property crimes, and the remaining 35% were other offences such as mischief, disturbing the peace, prostitution and arson.
- The violent crime rate increased slightly (+1%) for the second consecutive year following seven straight years of decline. Both assaults and sexual assaults increased by 1% in 2001, while robberies remained unchanged. The homicide rate remained stable for the third consecutive year, while attempted murders dropped 7%.
- The property crime rate dipped slightly (-1%), continuing the downward trend in these offences seen since the early 1990s. A 5% decline in break-ins contributed to this drop. However, the rate of motor vehicle thefts increased for the first time in five years (+5%). The 2001 property crime rate was the lowest in nearly 30 years.
- The rate of "other" *Criminal Code* offences increased by 4% in 2001, primarily due to large increases in bail violations (+16%), offensive weapons (+13%) and disturbing the peace (+10%), as well as a 3% jump in mischief, the highest-volume offence in this category.
- Impaired driving increased for the first time in nearly 20 years. The rate of impaired driving incidents increased by 7%, while the rate of persons charged with these offences was up by 1%.
- Drug offences increased by 3% in 2001, continuing the upward trend evident since 1994. Cannabis offences drove this increase, up 6%.
- Six of the ten provinces showed an increase in their crime rate, the largest being in the Prairie provinces: Manitoba (+6%), Saskatchewan (+5%) and Alberta (+4%). Québec registered the largest decline (-3%). The only provinces that had higher crime rates in 2001 as compared to 1991 were Saskatchewan (+18%) and Manitoba (+3%).
- Among the provinces, for the third straight year, Newfoundland & Labrador continued to show the lowest crime rate, followed by Québec. For the fourth consecutive year, Saskatchewan had the highest crime rate, followed by British Columbia and Manitoba.
- The crime rate increased in six of the nine largest census metropolitan areas (CMAs) in 2001, with the largest increases reported in Hamilton (+8%), Edmonton (+8%) and Winnipeg (+6%). The Montréal CMA reported the largest decrease (-6%).
- Among all 25 CMAs, the highest rates were reported in the province of Saskatchewan: Regina and Saskatoon, while the lowest were found in the province of Québec: Chicoutimi-Jonquière, Québec, and Trois-Rivières.
- The youth crime rate, as measured by the rate of youths charged with *Criminal Code* offences, increased slightly (+1%) for the second consecutive year, after having decreased between 1991 and 1999. The rate of youths charged with violent offences also increased for the second straight year (+2%), while the rate for "other" *Criminal Code* offences increased 6%. The youth property crime rate continued to drop in 2001, down 3%. The rate of youths charged with drug offences continued to climb, with an increase of 6%.



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Introduction

To measure the magnitude, nature and impact of criminal behaviour, there are two main sources of information in Canada: police-reported crime data and victimization surveys. While police-reported data measure crimes known to the police, victimization surveys collect information directly from the general population, regardless of whether or not the crime was reported to police.

This report is an examination of 2001 police-reported crime in Canada. Data are presented within the context of both short and long-term trends. The analysis focuses on trends in violent crime, property crime, impaired driving offences, drug offences and youth crime. Crime rates are examined at the national and provincial/territorial level, as well as at the major metropolitan area level. The trend in Canada's crime rate is put into perspective by comparing it with crime trends in the United States and England & Wales. Detailed information on incidents and accused persons is also presented where appropriate.

Every year since 1962, Canada's police agencies have reported criminal incidents that come to their attention, or that are detected through police investigation, to the Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics (CCJS) by means of the Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) survey (see methodology section for a description of the survey).

The CCJS gratefully acknowledges the assistance of Canada's police agencies and the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police in making this report possible.

Interpreting police-reported crime data

Incidents that come to the attention of the police are captured and forwarded to the CCJS according to a nationally-approved set of common crime categories and definitions. The reader should note, however, that many factors could influence official crime statistics. These include: reporting by the public to the police; reporting by police to the CCJS; the impact of new initiatives such as changes in legislation, policies or enforcement practices; and, social, economic, and demographic changes.

Reporting to police

There are many reasons why victims may not report criminal incidents to police. According to the 1999 General Social Survey (GSS), these reasons include: the level of seriousness related to the incident (i.e., "the incident was not important enough"); the victim did not want the police involved; the victim believed that the police "could not do anything"; and, the fear of reprisals from the aggressor or other negative consequences of criminal justice system intervention. However, other factors such as the willingness to see the offender punished, a feeling of social obligation to report criminal behaviour, as well as the need to obtain a police report in order to receive insurance compensation, may encourage people to report certain criminal offences to police.¹

Victimization surveys provide estimates of the amount of crime not reported to police. Although the failure to report crimes to the police can lead to an under-counting of official police crime statistics, the opposite can also be true: as the tolerance of Canadians for certain types of crimes lowers, reporting to police will increase, thus driving crime statistics upward. For example, more awareness by the public, police and prosecutors in the areas of family violence, sexual assault and youth crime may lower society's tolerance for these behaviours, which in turn, may encourage victims and witnesses to report to police and encourage police to lay more charges.

The 1999 GSS collected information on eight crime categories. It found that the rates for sexual assault, robbery, assault, break and enter, theft of motor vehicle/parts, and vandalism did not change significantly between 1993 and 1999. However, increased rates were observed for the theft of both personal property and household property.

¹ Besserer, S. and Trainor, C., "Criminal Victimization in Canada", *Juristat, Catalogue 85-002, Vol. 20, No. 10, p. 11 & 12, 2000.*

Police-reported data from the UCR Survey for the same period indicated a declining crime rate for each of these crime categories. According to the GSS, the percentage of Canadians reporting criminal incidents to police declined between 1993 and 1999. For the eight GSS crime types, 37% of incidents were reported to the police in 1999, down slightly from 42% in 1993.² The main reason cited by victims for not reporting was because the incident was deemed "not important enough".

Reporting by police to the CCJS

Crimes reported to the CCJS by police agencies are subject to numerous quality-control procedures, both on-site at the police agency and at the CCJS. The CCJS and police agencies work together on an ongoing basis to detect and resolve any difficulties in the reporting or transmission of data.

Concerns have been raised that tighter budgets during the 1990's have diminished the ability of some police agencies to respond to, and document, all incidents reported to them. This situation might have resulted in less complete reporting of offences to the UCR survey and, consequently, may have contributed to the decreases in crime during the 1990's. However, the fact that both the more serious crimes (those crimes which are more likely to be recorded by police) as well as the less serious crimes declined over this period, suggests that any change that may have occurred in police reporting practices was not significant.

Changes in legislation, policies and practices

Changes in legislation, policies and police enforcement practices may also have an impact on police-reported statistics. For instance, where an amendment to the *Criminal Code* creates a new offence or broadens the definition of an existing offence as in the case of criminal harassment, failure to stop during a police pursuit, and offences related to organized crime, the number of incidents reported to police will likely increase.

For certain crimes, the number of offences reported is largely driven by police enforcement. Crimes such as prostitution, drug offences and impaired driving are most often identified through police-enforcement activities, or "proactive" policing, and are rarely reported by the public. Therefore, police enforcement efforts, such as special operations to target these types of crimes, will affect official crime statistics.

Other theories that have been advanced to explain the declines in the crime rate during the 1990s include: the advent of community policing; increased enforcement and new strategies to reduce the incidence of certain crimes; improvements in case management and new approaches to solving crimes; and, crime prevention. Although each of these factors can certainly have an effect on crime, the magnitude of their impact is difficult to determine.

Changing demographics

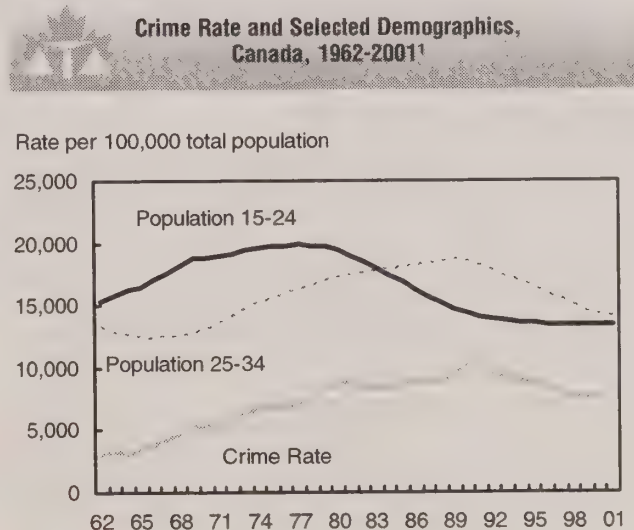
The general decline in crime rates since the early 1990s coincided with a decrease in the proportion of persons aged 15 to 24 and 25 to 34 during this time period. Since young adults have higher rates of offending and victimization than other age groups, crime rates can be expected to decline as their share of the population declines. In 2001, those aged 15 to 24 represented 14% of the total population while accounting

for 46% of those charged with property crimes and 31% of persons charged with violent crimes.³ Those 25 to 34 years of age accounted for 14% of the population, 18% of property offenders and 24% of violent offenders.

Baby-boomers, those born between 1947 and 1966, reached 15 years of age in the 1960s and 1970s, a time when violent and property crime rates were rising. Figure 1 shows the trend in overall crime and in the number of 15 to 24 year-olds and 25 to 34 year-olds as rates per 100,000 population. The rate of 15 to 24 year-olds began dropping in the early 1980s and the 25 to 34 age group declined in the early 1990s.

Fluctuations in other social or economic conditions may interact with demographic shifts to affect crime rates. For example, Ouimet⁴ contends that a very large cohort of young people born in Canada during the 1960s had higher levels of criminal involvement than any other, due to more serious difficulties integrating into the job market during the recession in the early 1980s. Changing social values related to family violence, sexual assault and impaired driving have coincided with an aging population and the combined effect may be more important than demographic shifts alone.⁵

Figure 1



¹ Note that the population 15-24 and population 25-34 refer to changes in the population for these age groups and not changes in crime rates.

Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, CCJS and Annual Demographic Statistics, 2001 Report.

² Ibid, Besserer, S. and Trainor, C., (2000), p. 11.

³ According to the UCR2 data, the peak age of offending among all youths and adults for both violent and property crimes is 16 years of age.

⁴ Ouimet, M. (2002) Explaining the American and Canadian crime "drop" in the 1990s, *Canadian Journal of Criminology* 44 (1) :33-50.

⁵ Johnson, H. Stratychuk, L. (forthcoming) Why are Crime rates Down? An exploration of crime patterns in Canada. *Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada*.

Key terminology and definitions

Offence or crime

These two terms refer to the number of *Criminal Code* "actual" incidents reported by police to CCJS. The number of actual *Criminal Code* offences does not include traffic offences and other federal statutes such as drug offences, unless noted otherwise. "Actual" incidents are those which have been substantiated through police investigation.

Criminal Incident

One incident can include more than one offence. **For incidents involving multiple offences, only the most serious offence in the incident is counted.** Unless otherwise stated, violent crime counts reflect the number of victims in the incident, whereas non-violent crime counts reflect the number of incidents or occurrences of crime.

Crime rate

This is a technique that helps standardize the data for comparisons among geographic areas with different populations and across time, when populations can also vary. Crime rates are based on 100,000 population.

Accused Persons

This includes all persons identified by police as having committed a crime as a result of an investigation, whether or not they have been formally charged.

Persons charged

This term refers to persons who have been formally charged or recommended to be charged by police.

For more information on the UCR Survey, refer to the Methodology section at the end of this report, and *Canadian Crime Statistics 2000*, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Catalogue 85-205, 2001.

2001 Crime Trends

Of the 2.4 million *Criminal Code* incidents (excluding traffic offences) reported in 2001 (Table 1), 13% were violent crimes, 52% were property crimes, and 35% were "other" *Criminal Code* crimes such as mischief, prostitution, arson, bail violations and disturbing the peace. This distribution of police-reported crime is dynamic. Thirty years ago, property crimes represented 69% of all crimes, while violent crimes accounted for only 9%.

In addition, there were approximately 126,000 *Criminal Code* traffic incidents (7 in 10 of these were impaired driving offences), 92,000 drug incidents and 38,000 other federal statute incidents (e.g. *Excise Act*, *Immigration Act*, *Canada Shipping Act*) reported. In total, police reported 2.7 million federal statute criminal incidents in 2001.

First increase in crime in 10 years

After peaking in the early 1990s, Canada's crime rate had been falling steadily. In 2001, this downward trend did not continue, as the police-reported crime rate (7,747 incidents per 100,000 population) increased slightly (+1%). Over the previous nine years, the crime rate had decreased by an average of 3% per year, resulting in the 2000 rate being the lowest since 1978 (Table 2). However, the 2001 crime rate is 46% higher than the rate 30 years ago.

The slight increase in the overall crime rate in 2001 was driven by a 4% increase in the rate of "other" *Criminal Code* offences and a 1% increase in the violent crime rate. The property crime rate continued to drop, showing a 1% decline in 2001.

Crime in the United States and England and Wales

According to the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the U.S. Crime Index increased by 2% in 2001⁶, driven by a 2% increase in property crime. Violent crime remained relatively stable (+0.3%). Among the four violent offences (excluding offences surrounding the events of September 11), there were increases reported for robbery (+4%), homicide (+3%) and forcible rape (+0.2%), while a decrease was reported for aggravated assault (-1%). Including the events surrounding September 11, homicides actually increased by 26%. All four property crimes increased: motor vehicle theft (+6%), burglary (+3%), arson (+2%) and larceny-theft (+1%).

A comparative analysis of 2000 crime rates in Canada and the United States revealed that the United States has higher rates of violent crime, while Canada generally has higher property crime rates.⁷

Reported crime in England and Wales has fallen annually since 1992, including a decrease of 3% in total criminal incidents between April 2000 and March 2001.⁸ Total violent criminal incidents, however, rose by 3%, while the number of property crime incidents declined 8%.

Crime rate up in 6 of 10 provinces

There is considerable regional variation in crime rates across Canada (Table 3). As in past years, an increase in crime rates from east to west was evident in 2001. Nova Scotia and Alberta are the exceptions to this general trend, with Nova Scotia's crime rate being higher than its neighbouring provinces, while Alberta's is lower.

In 2001, provincial crime rates ranged from 5,635 incidents per 100,000 population in Newfoundland and Labrador to 13,458 in Saskatchewan. All three territories reported crime rates higher than any of the provinces.

A majority of provinces reported an increase in their crime rate in 2001, the largest being in the Prairie provinces: Manitoba (+6%), Saskatchewan (+5%) and Alberta (+4%). All three territories registered large increases in crime as well: Nunavut (+19%), Northwest Territories (+7%), and Yukon (+5%). Québec reported the largest decrease in crime, down 3%.

Saskatchewan and Manitoba are the only two provinces to have shown an increase in crime since 1991. Saskatchewan's crime rate has increased 18% over these 10 years, while Manitoba's has increased 3%. The largest declines seen over the past decade have occurred in Ontario (-33%), Québec (-29%) and Alberta (-29%).

⁶ U.S. Department of Justice, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Press Release - 2001 Preliminary CIUS. <http://www.fbi.gov/pressrel/pressrel01/01bprelimcius.htm>

⁷ Gannon, M (2001), "Comparison of crime rates between Canada and the United States, Juristat, Catalogue 85-002-XPE, Vol. 21, no. 11.

⁸ See Povey, D., et al, Recorded Crime Statistics, England and Wales, Home Office, England, July 2001. This annual report is based on the 12 months ending March 2001; the percentage change figures are based on the actual numbers of incidents and not rates.

Crime in census metropolitan areas

In 2001, the crime rate increased in six of the nine largest census metropolitan areas (CMAs)⁹ (Table 4). These nine CMAs represent nearly half (46%) of all offences reported by police services in Canada. The largest increases were reported in Hamilton (+8%), Edmonton (+8%), Winnipeg (+6%) and Ottawa¹⁰ (+5%). The largest declines were seen in Montréal (-6%) and Québec (-2%).

Many metropolitan areas with populations between 100,000 and 500,000 also reported increases, with the largest being in Sherbrooke (+13%), Sudbury (+12%) and Regina (+10%) (Table 5). The largest declines were reported in London (-9%), Victoria (-6%) and St. John's (-5%).

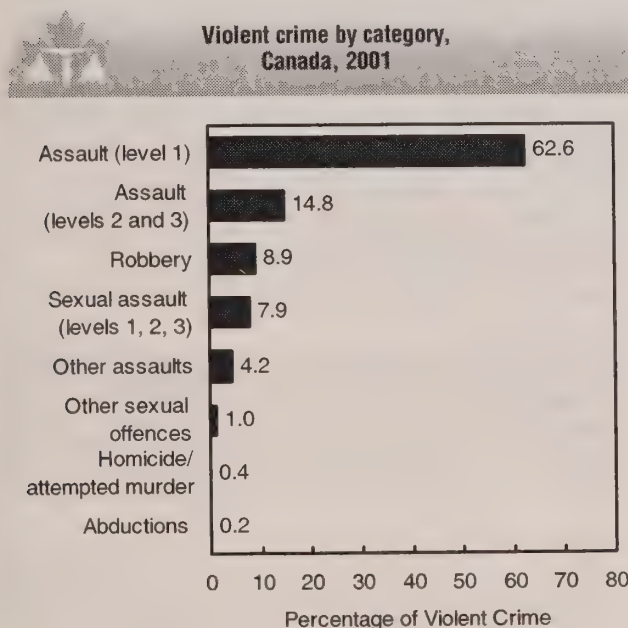
Among all 25¹¹ CMAs, the lowest crime rates were reported by three Québec CMAs: Chicoutimi-Jonquière (4,986 incidents per 100,000 population), Québec (4,986) and Trois-Rivières (5,094). At the opposite end, Regina showed the highest crime rate (16,387) for the fifth consecutive year, followed by Saskatoon (13,236).

Violent Crime

Violent crime increases for second straight year

Violent crime incidents (numbering approximately 309,000 in 2001) include homicide, attempted murder, assault, sexual assault, other assaults, other sexual offences, abduction and robbery (Figure 2). In 2001, the violent crime rate increased (+1%) for the second straight year, after having declined in each of the previous seven years. Prior to these declines, the violent crime rate had increased for 15 straight years, from 1978 to 1992 (Figure 3).

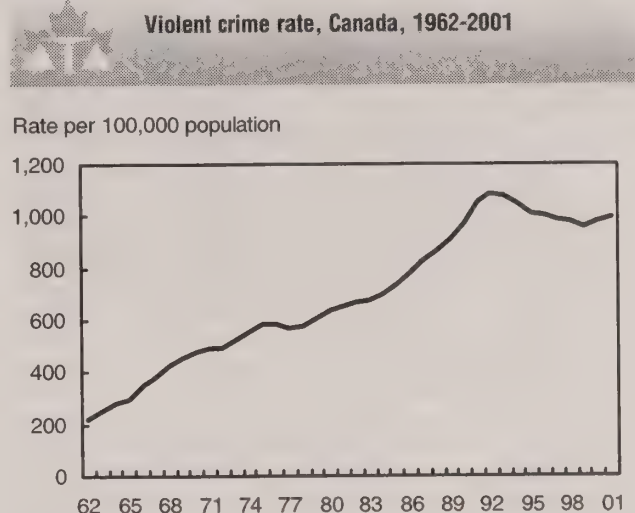
Figure 2



Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, CCJS.

The 2001 violent crime rate is 6% less than a decade ago, but 52% higher than 20 years ago. However, if common assaults (the least serious form of assault, which account for more than 6 in 10 violent crimes) were excluded, the violent crime rate would actually be 28% lower than 10 years ago.

Figure 3



Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, CCJS.

Six provinces reported an increase in violent crime, with the largest being in Saskatchewan (+8%), Nova Scotia (+6%), New Brunswick (+5%), and Alberta (+4%). The largest declines were seen in British Columbia (-3%) and Manitoba (-2%).

Violent crime rates in the west were much higher than in the rest of the country (Figure 4). Saskatchewan (1,802 violent incidents per 100,000 population) and Manitoba (1,620) reported the highest rates. All three territories had violent crime rates in 2001 that were more than double that of the highest province. Québec and Prince Edward Island (with rates of 719 and 746, respectively) continued to report the lowest violent crime rates, a pattern consistent with previous years.

A majority of CMAs (16 out of 25) reported increases in their violent crime rate in 2001, with the largest being in Sudbury (+20%), Hull¹² (+18%), Halifax (+12%) and Saskatoon (+11%). The CMAs of London (-9%), Kitchener (-8%) and Chicoutimi-Jonquière (-8%) reported the largest declines.

⁹ A CMA refers to a large urban core (over 100,000 population) together with adjacent urban and rural areas that have a high degree of economic and social integration. The areas that police forces serve may differ in their mix of urban/suburban populations, making the comparability of crime rates among these forces difficult. This lack of comparability is addressed by analyzing crime rates by CMA. Usually, more than one police force is responsible for enforcing the law within the boundaries of a CMA.

¹⁰ "Ottawa" in this report refers to the Ontario portion of the Ottawa-Hull CMA.

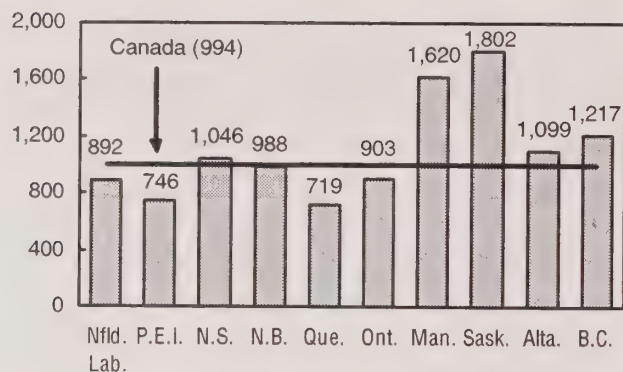
¹¹ The Oshawa Census Metropolitan Area (CMA) is excluded from this analysis due to incongruity between the police agency jurisdictional boundaries and CMA boundaries.

¹² "Hull" represents the Québec portion of the Ottawa-Hull CMA.

Figure 4

Violent crime, Canada and the provinces, 2001

Rate per 100,000 population



Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, CCJS.

For the fourth consecutive year, Saskatoon (1,663 violent incidents per 100,000 population), Regina (1,614) and Thunder Bay (1,390) reported the highest rates among the 25 CMAs. The lowest rates were seen in Sherbrooke (461) and Trois-Rivières (492).

Among the nine largest CMAs, Winnipeg (1,309) and Vancouver (1,053) reported the highest violent crime rates in 2001, while Québec (532) and Ottawa (754) reported the lowest (Table 5).

Homicide rate continues to be stable

Homicide includes first and second-degree murder, manslaughter, and infanticide. In 2001, there were 554 homicides and 721 attempted murders. Together these crimes account for less than half of one percent of reported violent incidents.

The homicide rate remained stable in 2001 for the third consecutive year. The rate has generally been declining since the mid-1970s. The 2001 rate (1.8 homicide per 100,000 population) is about the same as during the late 1960s.

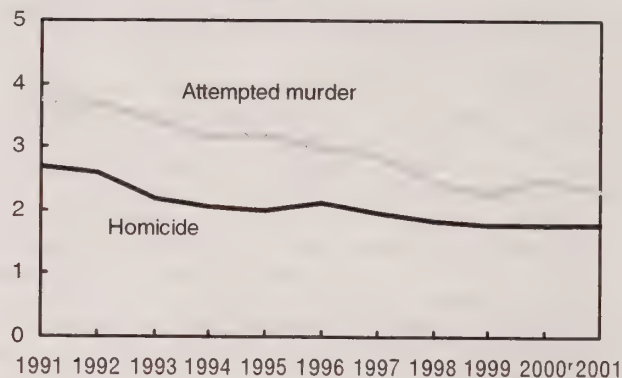
The rate for attempted murder decreased by 7% in 2001, following an 11% increase in 2000. Figure 5 clearly illustrates the parallel trend over the past 10 years between homicides and attempted murders.

Despite the relative stability at the national level, there were some provincial variations in homicide rates. All four Atlantic provinces and Québec showed a drop in homicides in 2001, while all three Prairie provinces and Ontario reported increases. British Columbia's rate was unchanged from the previous year. The largest drops were found in Newfoundland & Labrador (from 6 homicides in 2000 to 1 in 2001) and Nova Scotia (from 15 homicides in 2000 to 9 in 2001). Alberta reported the largest increase, going from 59 homicides in 2000 to 70 in 2001.

Figure 5

Homicide and attempted murder incidents, Canada, 1991-2001

Rate per 100,000 population



Revised data

Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, CCJS.

Among the provinces, Manitoba had the highest homicide rate (3.0 homicides per 100,000 population), followed by Saskatchewan (2.7) and Alberta (2.3). The lowest rates were found in Newfoundland & Labrador (0.2), Nova Scotia (1.0) and New Brunswick (1.1). Nunavut (with 3 homicides, resulting in a rate of 10.7) and the Northwest Territories (with 4 homicides, resulting in a rate of 9.8) reported rates more than three times any of the provinces.

Homicides dropped in 15 of the 25 CMAs in 2001. The highest rates were found in Regina (3.5), Sudbury (3.1) and Winnipeg (2.8). The lowest rates were reported in Sherbrooke (no homicides), Ottawa (0.4) and Saskatoon (0.4).¹³

Sexual assault rate increases slightly

Sexual assault is classified into one of three levels according to the seriousness of the incident: level 1 sexual assault (the category of least physical injury to the victim); level 2 sexual assault (with a weapon, threats to use a weapon, or causing bodily harm); and, level 3 aggravated sexual assault (wounds, maims, disfigures or endangers the life of the victim). Sexual assaults accounted for 8% of all violent crimes in 2001.¹⁴ The vast majority (98%) of the 24,000 reported incidents of sexual assault were classified by police as level 1.

The rate for all sexual assaults increased slightly (+1%) in 2001. Despite this increase, the rate of sexual assaults is still 35% lower than in 1993. The 2001 increase was a result of a 1% increase of level 1 sexual assaults. Both sexual assault with a weapon (level 2) and aggravated sexual assault (level 3) dropped in 2001, by 17% and 9% respectively.

¹³ For further information, see "Homicide in Canada", *Juristat*, Catalogue 85-002.

¹⁴ Results from the 1999 GSS showed that sexual assault offences were the least likely offence category to be reported to police. In fact, over three-quarters (78%) of sexual assaults were not reported to police.

Rates of sexual assault increased in 13 of the 25 CMAs. The highest rates were reported in St. John's (129 incidents per 100,000 population) and Saskatoon (124). The lowest rates were in Ottawa (30) and Chicoutimi-Jonquière (39).

Assaults also increased in 2001

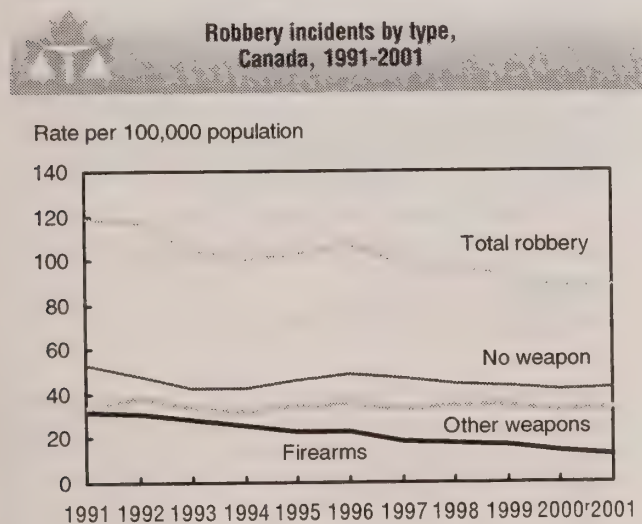
The most common violent crime is assault. The *Criminal Code* defines several categories of assault: common assault (level 1), assault with a weapon or causing bodily harm (level 2), aggravated assault (level 3), and other assaults (i.e., assault on a peace officer, unlawfully causing bodily harm, discharge of firearm with intent and all other assaults).

For the second consecutive year, the rate of assault increased slightly (+1%). The most serious assaults (assaults with a weapon (level 2) and aggravated assaults (level 3)) both increased by 5%, while common assaults (level 1) increased by 1%. Common assaults account for just over 8 in 10 assaults, and 6 in 10 reported violent incidents. This offence includes behaviours such as pushing, slapping, punching, and face-to-face threats by an act or gesture.

Robberies committed with a firearm have declined by over 50% since 1991

The 27,414 robberies in 2001 accounted for 9% of all violent crimes. The rate for total robberies was relatively stable in 2001 (+0.4%) (Figure 6). The rate of robberies involving the use of a firearm has been consistently dropping over the past decade, including a further 12% decline in 2001. Robberies committed with other weapons (such as knives) increased by 4% in 2001, and robberies with no weapons were up 2%. However, these latter two categories have generally also been declining since 1991.

Figure 6



Revised data

Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, CCJS.

Similar to previous years, there were large differences among the CMAs in rates of robbery, with the highest being reported in Winnipeg (245), Saskatoon (229) and Regina (192), and the lowest in St. John's (31), Chicoutimi-Jonquière (32) and Trois-Rivières (35).

The largest increases in robbery were reported in St. John's (+42%) and Chicoutimi-Jonquière (+41%). The largest decreases were seen in Trois-Rivières (-37%), Hull (-15%) and Kitchener (-15%).

Compared to other violent crimes, robbery is more likely to involve youths. In 2001, 34% of persons charged with robbery were youths, compared with only 16% of persons charged with all other violent crimes.

Criminal harassment

The *Criminal Code* defines criminal harassment as repeatedly following or communicating with someone, watching that person's residence or business place, or engaging in threatening conduct directed at that person or member of their family. Data on criminal harassment are only available from those police services providing data to the UCR2 survey. In order to permit trend analysis, a separate UCR2 Trend Database has been created for a subset of all respondents who have been reporting data to this survey since 1995.¹⁵

Data from 2001 show a 5% drop in the rate of criminal harassment incidents.¹⁶ However, from 1996 to 2000, criminal harassment increased by 45%, from 33 incidents per 100,000 population in 1996 to 48 in 2000. It is difficult to determine if the increase in this time period represented a real increase in stalking behaviour or was, in part, reflective of the increased awareness of this relatively new offence and its potential seriousness by both victims and the police.

Property Crime

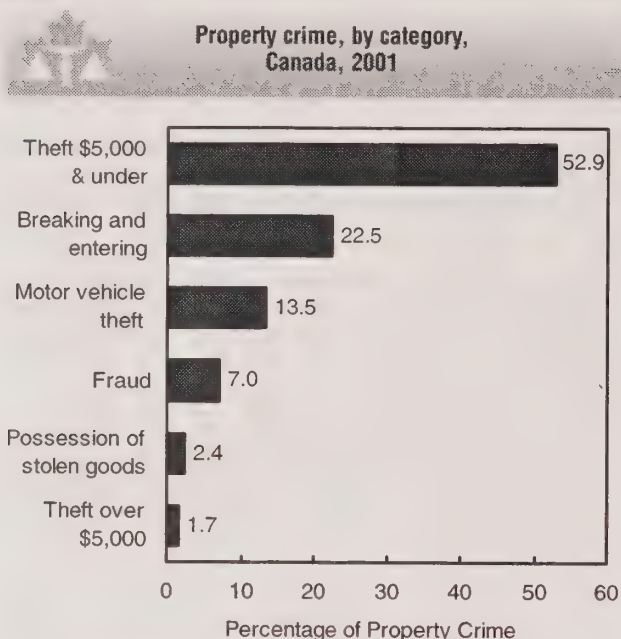
Property crime rate continues to drop

Property crime incidents involve unlawful acts with the intent of gaining property but do not involve the use or threat of violence. Theft, breaking and entering, fraud and possession of stolen goods are among the most frequently reported property crimes (Figure 7). In 2001, there were approximately 1.2 million property crime incidents reported by police. The rate for these crimes has generally been decreasing since 1991, including a further 1% drop in 2001. This drop was mainly driven by a 5% drop in the rate of break-ins. The 2001 property crime rate was the lowest recorded by police services in almost 30 years.

¹⁵ In 2001, this database represented 42% of the national volume of crime and is comprised of 95 police services including Toronto, Montréal, Calgary, Edmonton and Vancouver.

¹⁶ These figures represent all offences of criminal harassment, regardless of whether or not it was the most serious offence committed in an incident with multiple offences

Figure 7



Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, CCJS.

Seven provinces reported a decline in their property crime rate in 2001, particularly in Newfoundland & Labrador (-6%), Québec (-4%) and Nova Scotia (-4%). The only increases were seen in Manitoba (+3%), British Columbia (+1%) and Ontario (+1%). Large declines in property crime were reported in both the Yukon and Northwest Territories (-12%), while Nunavut experienced a 12% increase.

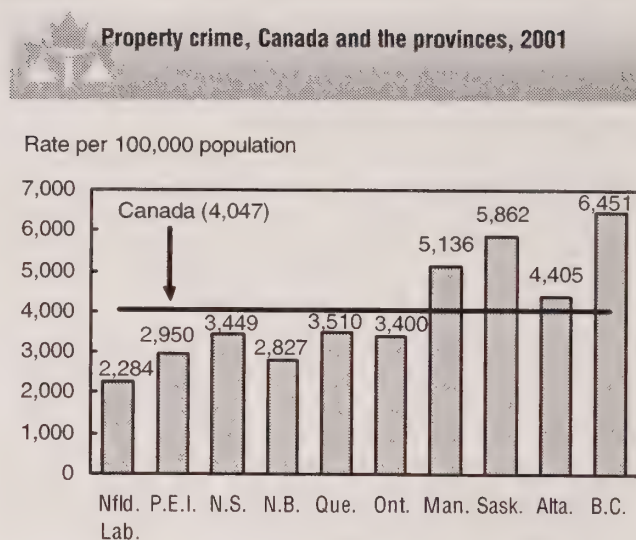
British Columbia continues to show the highest property crime rate (6,451 incidents per 100,000 population) among the provinces (Figure 8). Newfoundland & Labrador reported the lowest rate (2,284), followed by New Brunswick (2,827).

Despite the fact that most provinces reported declines in property crime in 2001, only three of the nine largest CMAs reported a similar drop: Montréal (-6%), Calgary (-4%) and Québec (-1%). However, the majority of smaller CMAs (populations under 500,000) did show declines, with the largest being in Hull (-10%) and St. John's (-10%). The largest increases in property crime rates among all 25 CMAs were found in Regina (+14%), Sherbrooke (+10%) and Hamilton (+7%).

Another large drop in break-ins

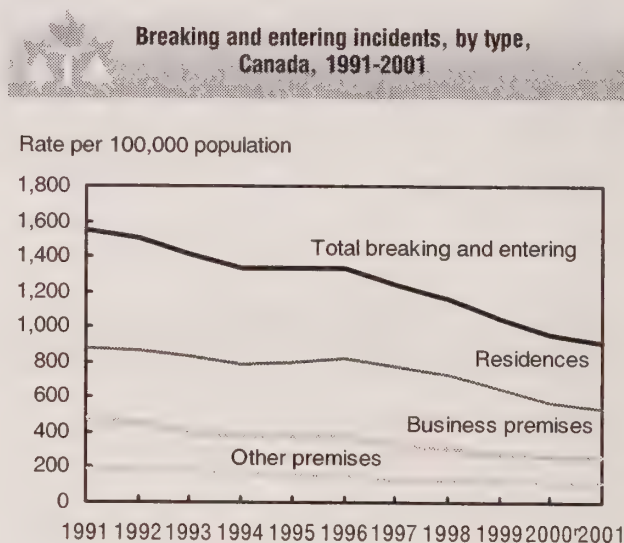
In total, there were about 280,000 reported incidents of break-ins in 2001, representing slightly more than 1 in 5 property offences. Break-in rates have generally been falling since 1991, including a 5% decrease in 2001 (Figure 9). Given the number of break-ins, a decrease of this magnitude has an impact on the total property crime rate as well as on the overall crime rate. Almost four in ten persons charged with this offence were youths.¹⁷

Figure 8



Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, CCJS.

Figure 9



¹⁷ Revised data

Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, CCJS.

The majority (59%) of break-ins in 2001 occurred at private residences. Businesses accounted for a further 29%, with the remaining 12% including other places such as sheds and storage facilities. Decreases in all three categories contributed to the general decline in break-in rates: residential break-ins dropped 6%, while both commercial and "other" break-ins decreased by 3%.

¹⁷ For further information, see Kowalski, M., (2000), "Break and Enter, 1999", Juristat, Catalogue 85-002, Vol. 20, No. 13.

The 2001 break-in rate decreased in the majority of CMAs, with the largest drops seen in Thunder Bay (-21%), St. John's (-17%) and Kitchener (-17%). The largest increases in break-ins were reported in Sherbrooke (+24%), St. Catharines-Niagara (+13%) and Hamilton (+9%).

The highest rates of break-ins were reported by Regina (2,002) and Saskatoon (1,803), while the lowest rates were in Toronto (553) and Ottawa (616).

According to the Insurance Information Centre of Canada¹⁸, the average claim by homeowners and tenants for losses through break-ins amounted to \$2,600 in 2000. The average claim for commercial businesses was \$6,978. In total, property losses associated with break-ins cost the insurance industry about \$290 million in 2000.

First increase in motor vehicle theft in 5 years

In 2001, there were about 170,000 thefts of motor vehicles, accounting for nearly 1 in 8 property crimes. The motor vehicle theft rate increased by 5% in 2001, ending four straight years of decline (Figure 10). Theft of cars increased by 5% while thefts of trucks were up 4%. The overall motor vehicle theft rate is now 10% higher than in 1991. However, the rate of "trucks" stolen, a category which includes mini-vans and sport-utility vehicles, has increased 59% over the past decade. Trucks represent about 3 in 10 stolen motor vehicles.

The most recent data available from the insurance industry show a drop in reported auto thefts during the latter part of the 1990s, followed by an increase in 2000.¹⁹ The theft of motor vehicles and their parts cost consumers more than \$600 million in insurance premiums²⁰ in 2000 (most recent data available).

Among all 25 CMAs, the largest increases in motor vehicle theft occurred in Victoria (+55%), Edmonton (+39%), Québec

(+26%) and Regina (+25%). The biggest declines were seen in Saskatoon (-15%) and St. Catharines-Niagara (-12%).

As was the case in 2000, the highest rates of vehicle theft in 2001 were reported in Regina (1,996 incidents per 100,000 population), Winnipeg (1,581) and Vancouver (1,148). The lowest theft rates were found in St. John's (183), Saint John (199) and Québec (290).

As with incidents of break-ins, motor vehicle theft is a crime associated with young offenders. In 2001, 42% of persons charged with motor vehicle theft were youths aged 12 to 17 years, compared to only 20% of persons charged with all other *Criminal Code* offences.

More than one-quarter of all *Criminal Code* offences are thefts

In 2001, the 687,107 incidents of theft (excluding motor vehicle thefts and property stolen in the course of break-ins) accounted for 29% of all *Criminal Code* incidents and over one-half (55%) of property crimes. As a result, any large variation in thefts will have a marked influence on the property crime rate as well as the overall crime rate. The 2001 theft rate was 1% lower than the previous year and has generally been declining since 1991.

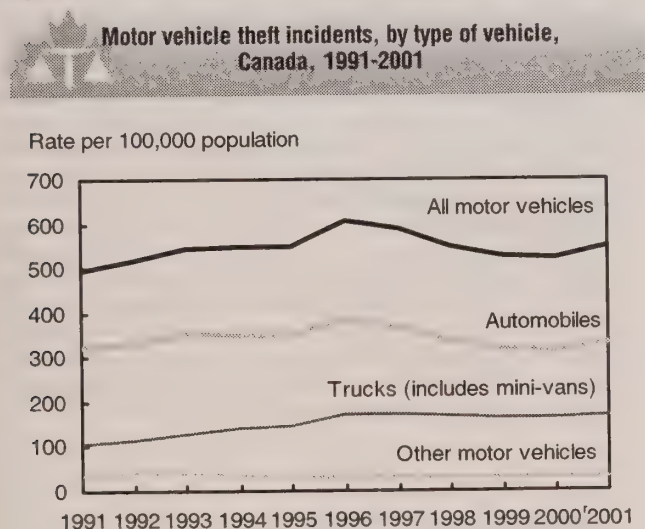
Of all thefts reported to police in 2001, 40% were thefts from motor vehicles, 12% were shoplifting, 8% were bicycle thefts, and 40% were in the category of "other" types of theft. Minor decreases were reported for thefts from vehicles and thefts of bicycles.

Fraud incidents increase

Frauds represent 7% of all property crimes. After nine years of decline, the rate of fraud incidents increased by 2% in 2001. This increase was driven by a 14% increase in credit/debit card fraud and a 5% increase in "other frauds"²¹; conversely, cheque frauds dropped by 13%.

During the past 20 years, the proportion of frauds resulting from cheques has continued to decline. In 1981, cheque frauds accounted for just over two-thirds of all frauds – now they represent just one-quarter. Over the same period, credit/debit card frauds have gone from 7% of all frauds to 26%. Also the category of all "other" frauds has doubled, from 23% to 48%. These changes parallel the changes in technology towards increases use of debit and credit cards, and away from the traditional use of cheques.

Figure 10



^r Revised data

Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, CCJS.

¹⁸ Insurance Information Centre of Canada, special data request. Members represent about 80% of the total insurance industry. Data on household losses comes from a sub-set of these companies representing 55% coverage; data on business losses comes from a sub-set representing 57% coverage.

¹⁹ Idem.

²⁰ For further information see the Insurance Council of Canada. Damage insurance in Canada, 2001.

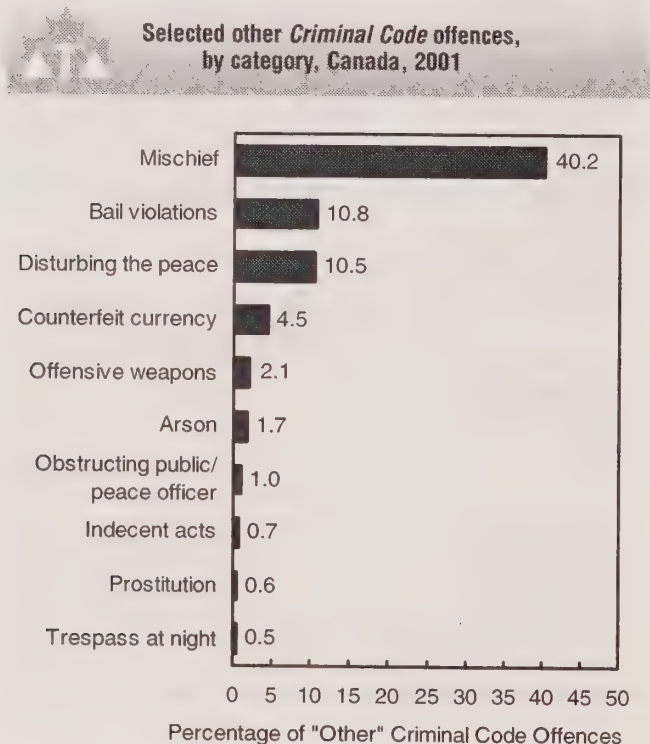
²¹ Other types of fraud include telemarketing fraud, fraudulent insurance and government claims, computer fraud, and fraudulent impersonation.

Other Criminal Code Incidents

The 841,191 *Criminal Code* crimes that are not in the violent or property crime categories are reported under the category "Other Criminal Code" (Figure 11). As a whole, these offences increased by 4% in 2001. The largest-volume offences in this category all showed increases in 2001: mischief (+3%), disturbing the peace (+10%), and bail violations (+16%). Another offence showing a large jump in 2001 was offensive weapons offences, up 13%. The rate of prostitution offences remained stable in 2001.

The 338,425 incidents of mischief (including acts of vandalism) reported by police in 2001 represented 14% of all *Criminal Code* incidents and 40% of all "other" *Criminal Code* incidents. For the second straight year, the rate of mischief incidents increased (+3%). These increases follow a general decline in these offences from 1991 to 1999. As in previous years, youths 12 to 17 years of age represented about one-third of all persons accused of this offence in 2001.

Figure 11



Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, CCJS.

Offensive weapons crimes increase

Since 1998, when the new *Firearms Act* began its gradual introduction, four new categories of criminal offences related to offensive weapons were created in the UCR survey: illegal use of a firearm or replica; illegal possession of a weapon; weapon importation, exportation and trafficking; and, a category for all "other" offences related to weapons (including offences

related to non-secure storage, documentation and administration of firearms). In 2001, there were 17,456 incidents of offensive weapons offences reported by police, an increase of 12% in the rate over 2000, and 2% higher than the 1998 rate. The rate for these offences had declined in both 1999 and 2000.

The categories of "illegal possession" of weapons accounted for about half of all these offences in 2001. Just over one-third (37%) were "other" weapons offences, and 13% were for illegal firearms usage.

Criminal Code Traffic Incidents

In 2001, the rate of *Criminal Code* traffic crimes increased by 7%. Police reported 126,298 *Criminal Code* traffic incidents, of which impaired driving accounted for 72%, failure to stop and/or remain at the scene of an accident accounted for 16%, and dangerous driving and driving while prohibited comprised the remaining 12%.

First increase in impaired driving offences in nearly 20 years

Impaired driving offences include impaired operation of a motor vehicle, boat or aircraft causing death or bodily harm; driving with over 80 mg of alcohol per 100 ml of blood; and, failing to provide a breath and/or blood sample when requested by a police officer. In 2001, the rate of impaired driving incidents (+7%) and the rate of persons charged with these offences (+1%) both increased for the first time in nearly 20 years. There were more than 90,000 incidents of impaired driving reported, with about 71,000 persons charged in 2001 (Figure 12).

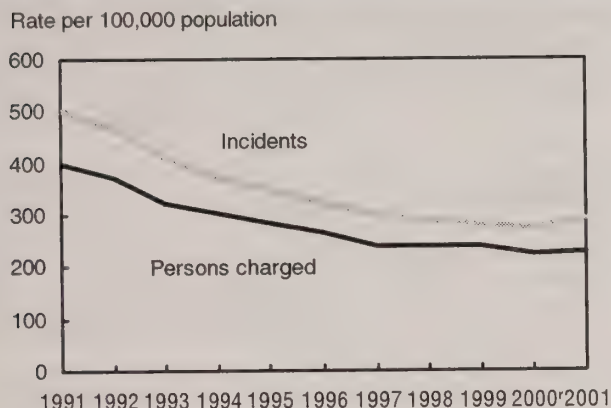
Part of the decline in impaired driving numbers during the 1990s could be attributed to a growing tendency by police to issue a road-side suspension (rather than laying a charge) to drivers found to have a blood-alcohol reading slightly above the legal limit.²² These offences were generally not sent to the UCR survey unless the driver was formally charged by police, meaning that the actual number of impaired driving incidents may have been under-estimated in the crime statistics.

Beginning in 2001, the RCMP began sending these incidents of impaired driving (where the driver was not formally charged) to the UCR survey as "actual" incidents of impaired driving. RCMP data show a 10% increase in the number of impaired driving incidents in 2001, as well as a 4% increase in persons charged with this offence. It is difficult to say how much of this increase was due to this reporting change and how much was a real increase. However, the fact that the remainder of police forces across the country reported a 5% increase in the rate of impaired driving incidents, points to a real increase in 2001. The RCMP data accounted for about half of the national increase in the number of impaired driving incidents in 2001. Beginning in 2002, all police forces will be reporting impaired driving incidents in the same manner as the RCMP.

²² For further information, see Sauvé, J., (1999), "Impaired Driving in Canada, 1998", *Juristat, Catalogue 85-002, Vol. 19, No. 11*.

Figure 12

Impaired driving, Canada, 1991-2001



Revised data

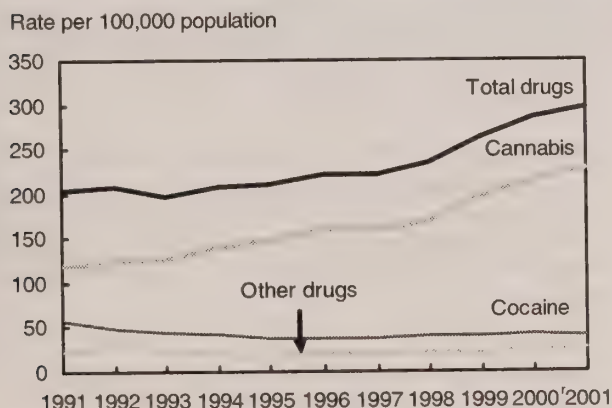
Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, CCJS.

Increase in drug offences

In 2001, a total of 91,920 incidents related to the *Controlled Drugs and Substances Act* (CDSA) were reported by Canadian police services, an increase of 3% over 2000. This latest increase represents a continuation of the upward trend in drug offences that began in 1994 (Figure 13). It should be noted that police-reported drug statistics tend to reflect the level of police enforcement more so than the actual demand on the street for illegal drugs.

Figure 13

Drug incidents, by type of drug, Canada, 1991-2001



Revised data

Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, CCJS.

Cannabis offences were primarily responsible for the overall increase in drug offences. Cannabis accounts for about three-quarters of all drug-related incidents, and the rate for these offences increased by 6% in 2001. Of all cannabis incidents, 70% were for possession, 16% for trafficking, 13% for cultivation, and 1% for importation.

The illegal cultivation of cannabis, particularly in cases where it is being grown without landowners' consent, has recently become an important issue. This type of offence has also seen an increase over the past decade: from a rate of 7 incidents per 100,000 population in 1990 to 29 in 2001.²³

The rate of "other" types of drug incidents, which include LSD, ecstasy, barbiturates, anabolic steroids, etc., also increased in 2001 (+3%). Both heroin (-22%) and cocaine (-6%) incidents dropped in 2001. Heroin is the least common of all the drug categories.

The 1990s showed a resurgence of drug use by youth

Since 1993, the rate of youths aged 12 to 17 years charged with cannabis offences has been on the rise as has, to a lesser extent, the rate for cocaine and other types of drugs. The *Ontario Student Drug Survey (OSDUS)*, a self-reported survey, found that there has been an increase in drug use among Ontario youth (grade 7 to 13) since 1993. The survey also addressed perceptions of risk and social disapproval regarding drug use. The results indicate that the percentage of youths who believe that there is an elevated risk associated with regular cannabis use dropped from 73% in 1991 to 48% in 2001, and the percentage who strongly disapprove of regular cannabis use dropped from 61% in 1991 to 42% in 2001. The same decrease was shown for the percentage of those who perceived harm in using cannabis once or twice.

Despite this resurgence in drug use, the proportion of youths charged with drug offences declines with the severity of the type of drug. For example, of all persons charged with possession of cannabis in 2001, 21% were youths, compared with 4% of all persons charged with cocaine possession.

For more information on the OSDUS survey, see Adlaf, Edward M. and Paglis, Angela. (2001) "Drug Use Among Ontario Students 1977-2001, Findings from the OSDUS", Centre for Addiction in Mental Health Research Document Series, no. 10.

Youth Crime

Measuring youth crime

The *Young Offenders Act (YOA)* states that youths aged 12 to 17 who come into contact with the law can be charged or dealt with by other means. The decision to proceed by charge depends on a number of factors including the admissibility of a youth to an alternative measures (AM) program. The objective of AM is to avoid formal court proceedings as long as certain conditions are met by the accused. Depending on the province, AM can be used at the pre- or post-charge stage. Generally, AM is reserved for first-time offenders. Further, when dealing with first-time offenders involved in minor incidents, police may choose to deal with a youth informally by giving a warning or discussing the incident with the youth's parents.

²³ For further information, see Tremblay, S., (1999), "Illicit Drugs and Crime", *Juristat*, Catalogue 85-002, Vol. 19, No. 1.

Consequently, the number of youths charged by police is influenced by the approach used by each police service and each province.²⁴ It is clear that the rate of youths charged is not a perfect indicator of youth crime, particularly with respect to measuring relatively minor offences committed by first-time offenders.

Youth Criminal Justice Act

Bill C-7, the *Youth Criminal Justice Act* (YCJA), received Royal Assent in February 2002. It is expected to replace the current *Young Offenders Act* in April 2003.

This new legislation was created with the aim of distinguishing between violent young offenders and recidivists, and the majority of young offenders who commit non-violent crimes and to target the responses of the youth justice system to the seriousness of the offence. The new law encourages community-based sentences, where appropriate, such as compensation for victims, community service, and supervision in the community; it allows courts to impose adult sentences upon conviction when certain criteria are met, such as for those youths 14 years of age and older who commit serious offences; and, it creates a new intensive rehabilitative custody and supervision sentence for the most violent, high-risk youth so that they get treatment.

Further, the YCJA will allow publication of names when a youth receives an adult sentence, receives a youth sentence for serious crimes, has a pattern of convictions for serious violent offences, or, under court order when a youth is at large and a danger to others and publication is necessary to protect society.

Youth crime increases slightly for second consecutive year

The rate of youths aged 12 to 17 charged with criminal offences increased slightly (+1%) for the second straight year in 2001. These increases follow eight years of decline in the youth crime rate between 1991 and 1999. The increase in youth crime in 2001 was driven by a 2% increase in the rate of violent crime and a 6% increase in the rate of "other" *Criminal Code* offences (Table 7 and Figure 14). The youth rate for property offences dropped by 3%.

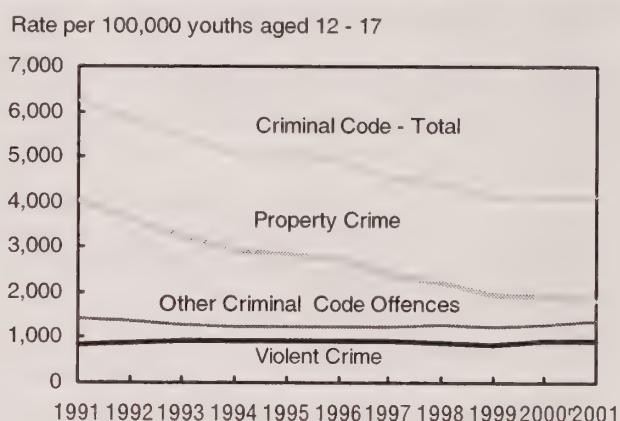
Property crimes accounted for nearly one-half (44%) of youth crime, compared to only 31% of adult crime. A further 23% of youths were charged with violent crimes, compared to 31% of adults. The remaining 33% of youths were charged with other *Criminal Code* offences such as mischief and offences against the administration of justice (e.g. bail violations or escapes from custody).

This distribution has changed from 1991 when only 13% of youths were charged with violent crimes and 64% were charged with property crimes. Increases in youths charged with common assault (level 1) and decreases in charges for theft and breaking & entering account for much of this shift.

The rate of youths charged varies considerably across the country (table 8). Québec (with 1,920 youths charged per 100,000 youths aged 12 to 17), Prince Edward Island (2,905) and British Columbia (3,248) reported the lowest rates of youths charged, while Saskatchewan (11,198) and Manitoba (7,512) reported the highest. As has been discussed earlier, some of the differences in these charge rates among provinces can be attributed to variations in the utilization of alternative measures

Figure 14

Youths Charged, by type of offence Canada, 1991-2001



Revised data

Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, CCJS.

and informal dealings with youth, both at the local and provincial level.

Rate of youths charged with violent crime increases

The rate of youths charged with violent crime (940 youths charged per 100,000 youths) increased 2% in 2001, following a 7% increase the previous year. These recent increases followed four straight years of decline, the largest of which was a 5% decline in 1999. The 2001 youth violent crime rate is 13% higher than 10 years ago.

The increase in youth violent crime in 2001 was driven by a 10% increase in the rate of youths charged with robbery, particularly robberies with a firearm (+35%). As well, assaults with a weapon and aggravated assaults (both up 6%) also contributed to the increase.

The 30 youths charged with homicide in 2001 were 13 fewer than in 2000, and 18 fewer than the average over the past decade. In fact, the total of 30 youths charged with homicide is the lowest in over 30 years.²⁵

Youth property crime rate continues to drop

The rate of youths charged with property crimes dropped for the 10th straight year in 2001 (-3%). The rate of youths charged declined for two of the three major property crime categories: break-ins (-6%) and other theft (-5%), but increased for motor vehicle theft (+7%).

²⁴ For further information, refer to Stevenson, K. et al. (Besserer, S., editor), (1998), "A Profile of Youth Justice in Canada," Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Catalogue 85-544.

²⁵ For further information, see "Homicide in Canada," Juristat, Catalogue 85-002.

Methodology

The Uniform Crime Reporting Survey

The Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Survey was developed by Statistics Canada with the co-operation and assistance of the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police. The survey, which became operational in 1962, collects crime and traffic statistics reported by all police agencies in Canada. UCR survey data reflect reported crime that has been substantiated through police investigation.

In this report, the "crime rate" excludes *Criminal Code* traffic violations as these data have proven to be volatile over time as a result of changes in police procedures that allow for some traffic violations to be scored under either a provincial statute or the *Criminal Code* (e.g. failure to stop or remain at an accident). Other federal statutes such as drug offences are also excluded.

Currently, there are two levels of detail collected by the UCR survey:

1. Aggregate UCR Survey

The aggregate UCR survey records the number of incidents reported to the police. It includes the number of reported offences, actual offences, offences cleared by charge or cleared otherwise, persons charged (by sex and by an adult/youth breakdown) and those not charged. It does not include victim characteristics. Unless otherwise mentioned, all analysis in this report is based on aggregate survey counts.

The aggregate UCR survey classifies incidents according to the most serious offence in the incident (generally the offence that carries the longest maximum sentence under the *Criminal Code*). In categorizing incidents, violent offences always take precedence over non-violent offences. As a result, less serious offences are under-represented by the UCR survey.

The aggregate UCR survey scores violent incidents (except robbery) differently from other types of crime. For violent crime, a separate incident is recorded for each victim (i.e. if one person assaults three people, then three incidents are recorded; but if three people assault one person, only

one incident is recorded). Robbery, however, is counted as if it were a non-violent crime in order to avoid inflating the number of victims (e.g. for a bank robbery, counting everyone present in the bank would result in an over-counting of robbery incidents). For non-violent crimes, one incident (categorized according to the *most serious offence*) is counted for every distinct or separate occurrence.

2. Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR2) Survey

The incident-based UCR2 survey captures detailed information on individual criminal incidents reported to police, including characteristics of victims, accused persons and incidents. Police forces switch over from the aggregate to the incident-based survey as their records management systems become capable of providing this level of detail.

In 2001, detailed data were collected from 154 police services in 9 provinces through the UCR2 survey. These data represent 59% of the national volume of reported actual *Criminal Code* crimes. The incidents contained in the 2001 database were distributed as follows: 40% from Ontario, 31% from Québec, 10% from Alberta, 5% from British Columbia, 5% from Manitoba, 5% from Saskatchewan, 2% from Nova Scotia, 1% from New Brunswick, and 1% from Newfoundland & Labrador. Other than Ontario and Québec, the data are primarily from urban police departments. The reader is cautioned that these data are not geographically representative at the national or provincial level. Continuity with the UCR aggregate survey data is maintained by a conversion of the incident-based data to aggregate counts at year-end.

The UCR2 Trend Database contains historical data, which permits the analysis of trends in the characteristics of the incidents, accused and victims, such as weapon use and victim/accused relationships. This database currently includes 95 police services who have reported to the UCR2 survey constantly since 1995. These respondents accounted for 42% of the national volume of crime in 2001. This list of respondents will remain unchanged until such time as large police services such as the RCMP and OPP have been providing at least 5 years of data to the UCR2 survey, at which point they will become part of this trend database.

Table 1

Federal Statute Incidents Reported to Police, by Most Serious Offence, Canada, 1997-2001¹

| | 1997 | | 1998 | | 1999 | | 2000 ² | | 2001 | | % change in rate* 2000-2001 | % change in rate* 1991-2001 |
|--|-------------------|----------------|-------------------|----------------|-------------------|----------------|-------------------|----------------|-------------------|----------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| | Number | Rate | Number | Rate | Number | Rate | Number | Rate | Number | Rate | | |
| Population | 29,987,214 | | 30,248,210 | | 30,499,219 | | 30,769,669 | | 31,081,887 | | | |
| Homicides | 586 | 2.0 | 558 | 1.8 | 538 | 1.8 | 546 | 1.8 | 554 | 1.8 | 0.4 | -33.7 |
| Attempted murder | 865 | 2.9 | 745 | 2.5 | 687 | 2.3 | 767 | 2.5 | 721 | 2.3 | -6.9 | -37.7 |
| Assaults - Total (levels 1, 2, 3) | 222,397 | 741.6 | 223,926 | 740.3 | 221,348 | 725.7 | 233,719 | 759.6 | 239,163 | 769.5 | 1.3 | 3.2 |
| Level 1 | 183,087 | 610.6 | 183,999 | 608.3 | 181,330 | 594.5 | 190,467 | 619.0 | 193,495 | 622.5 | 0.6 | 4.4 |
| Level 2-Weapon | 36,665 | 122.3 | 37,302 | 123.3 | 37,501 | 123.0 | 40,686 | 132.2 | 42,959 | 138.2 | 4.5 | 2.5 |
| Level 3-Aggravated | 2,645 | 8.8 | 2,625 | 8.7 | 2,517 | 8.3 | 2,566 | 8.3 | 2,709 | 8.7 | 4.5 | -37.1 |
| Other assaults | 11,807 | 39.4 | 12,147 | 40.2 | 12,126 | 39.8 | 12,164 | 39.5 | 13,091 | 42.1 | 6.5 | -33.1 |
| Sexual assaults - Total | 27,013 | 90.1 | 25,553 | 84.5 | 23,859 | 78.2 | 24,001 | 78.0 | 24,419 | 78.6 | 0.7 | -27.4 |
| Level 1 | 26,142 | 87.2 | 24,805 | 82.0 | 23,185 | 76.0 | 23,428 | 76.1 | 23,923 | 77.0 | 1.1 | -25.4 |
| Level 2-Weapon | 602 | 2.0 | 529 | 1.7 | 461 | 1.5 | 391 | 1.3 | 329 | 1.1 | -16.7 | -69.4 |
| Level 3-Aggravated | 269 | 0.9 | 219 | 0.7 | 213 | 0.7 | 182 | 0.6 | 167 | 0.5 | -9.2 | -67.5 |
| Other sexual offences | 3,650 | 12.2 | 3,445 | 11.4 | 3,300 | 10.8 | 3,114 | 10.1 | 3,026 | 9.7 | -3.8 | -30.6 |
| Abduction | 985 | 3.3 | 829 | 2.7 | 729 | 2.4 | 750 | 2.4 | 713 | 2.3 | -5.9 | -41.3 |
| Robbery - Total | 29,587 | 98.7 | 28,963 | 95.8 | 28,740 | 94.2 | 27,037 | 87.9 | 27,414 | 88.2 | 0.4 | -25.6 |
| Firearms | 5,486 | 18.3 | 5,324 | 17.6 | 5,122 | 16.8 | 4,323 | 14.0 | 3,833 | 12.3 | -12.2 | -53.0 |
| Other Weapons | 9,945 | 33.2 | 10,326 | 34.1 | 10,500 | 34.4 | 9,901 | 32.2 | 10,362 | 33.3 | 3.6 | -0.4 |
| No Weapons | 14,156 | 47.2 | 13,313 | 44.0 | 13,118 | 43.0 | 12,813 | 41.6 | 13,219 | 42.5 | 2.1 | -2.8 |
| Violent crime - Total | 296,890 | 990.1 | 296,166 | 979.1 | 291,327 | 955.2 | 302,098 | 981.8 | 309,101 | 994.5 | 1.3 | -6.1 |
| Break & enter - Total | 373,316 | 1,244.9 | 350,774 | 1,159.7 | 318,054 | 1,042.8 | 293,357 | 953.4 | 282,512 | 908.9 | -4.7 | -41.4 |
| Business | 100,696 | 335.8 | 92,590 | 306.1 | 83,971 | 275.3 | 82,074 | 266.7 | 80,421 | 258.7 | -3.0 | -46.0 |
| Residential | 233,724 | 779.4 | 221,366 | 731.8 | 197,022 | 646.0 | 175,804 | 571.4 | 167,322 | 538.3 | -5.8 | -38.8 |
| Other | 38,896 | 129.7 | 36,818 | 121.7 | 37,061 | 121.5 | 35,479 | 115.3 | 34,769 | 111.9 | -3.0 | -41.3 |
| Motor vehicle theft | 177,130 | 590.7 | 165,920 | 548.5 | 161,388 | 529.2 | 160,315 | 521.0 | 170,213 | 547.6 | 5.1 | 10.2 |
| Theft over \$5,000 | 24,035 | 80.2 | 23,600 | 78.0 | 22,493 | 73.7 | 21,354 | 69.4 | 21,146 | 68.0 | -2.0 | -83.8 |
| Theft \$5,000 and under | 758,292 | 2,528.7 | 713,632 | 2,359.3 | 678,367 | 2,224.2 | 663,040 | 2,154.8 | 665,961 | 2,142.6 | -0.6 | -30.5 |
| Possession of stolen goods | 29,799 | 99.4 | 29,156 | 96.4 | 29,308 | 96.1 | 28,530 | 92.7 | 29,565 | 95.1 | 2.6 | -21.7 |
| Fraud | 96,964 | 323.4 | 94,819 | 313.5 | 90,371 | 296.3 | 85,791 | 278.8 | 88,332 | 284.2 | 1.9 | -41.8 |
| Property crime - Total | 1,459,536 | 4,867.2 | 1,377,901 | 4,555.3 | 1,299,981 | 4,262.3 | 1,252,387 | 4,070.2 | 1,257,729 | 4,046.5 | -0.6 | -34.3 |
| Mischief | 341,854 | 1,140.0 | 326,918 | 1,080.8 | 312,266 | 1,023.8 | 326,374 | 1,060.7 | 338,425 | 1,088.8 | 2.7 | -34.4 |
| Counterfeiting currency | 33,272 | 111.0 | 39,830 | 131.7 | 36,265 | 118.9 | 35,937 | 116.8 | 37,771 | 121.5 | 4.0 | 489.4 |
| Bail violation | 70,367 | 234.7 | 73,034 | 241.4 | 72,192 | 236.7 | 78,105 | 253.8 | 91,249 | 293.6 | 15.7 | 38.1 |
| Disturbing the peace ² | 57,704 | 192.4 | 65,513 | 216.6 | 69,570 | 228.1 | 80,085 | 260.3 | 88,729 | 285.5 | 9.7 | 39.4 |
| Offensive weapons | 16,103 | 53.7 | 16,766 | 55.4 | 16,007 | 52.5 | 15,324 | 49.8 | 17,456 | 56.2 | 12.8 | -20.0 |
| Prostitution | 5,828 | 19.4 | 5,969 | 19.7 | 5,255 | 17.2 | 5,051 | 16.4 | 5,103 | 16.4 | 0.0 | -56.4 |
| Arson | 12,693 | 42.3 | 12,947 | 42.8 | 12,756 | 41.8 | 13,733 | 44.6 | 14,513 | 46.7 | 4.6 | 5.6 |
| Other | 240,519 | 802.1 | 246,112 | 813.6 | 241,212 | 790.9 | 243,674 | 791.9 | 247,945 | 797.7 | 0.7 | -8.6 |
| Other Criminal Code - Total | 778,340 | 2,595.6 | 787,089 | 2,602.1 | 765,523 | 2,510.0 | 798,283 | 2,594.4 | 841,191 | 2,706.4 | 4.3 | -13.3 |
| CRIMINAL CODE WITHOUT TRAFFIC - TOTAL | 2,534,766 | 8,452.8 | 2,461,156 | 8,136.5 | 2,356,831 | 7,727.5 | 2,352,768 | 7,646.4 | 2,408,021 | 7,747.3 | 1.3 | -25.1 |
| Impaired driving ^{3,4} | 90,145 | 300.6 | 87,660 | 289.8 | 85,997 | 282.0 | 84,044 | 273.1 | 90,454 | 291.0 | 6.5 | -42.0 |
| Fail to stop/remain ⁵ | 49,781 | 166.0 | 39,087 | 129.2 | 17,972 | 58.9 | 19,522 | 63.4 | 20,294 | 65.3 | 2.9 | -72.3 |
| Other - Criminal Code Traffic | 15,302 | 51.0 | 14,406 | 47.6 | 13,681 | 44.9 | 13,698 | 44.5 | 15,550 | 50.0 | 12.4 | -27.6 |
| Criminal Code Traffic - Total | 155,228 | 517.6 | 141,153 | 466.6 | 117,650 | 385.7 | 117,264 | 381.1 | 126,298 | 406.3 | 6.6 | -49.6 |
| CRIMINAL CODE - TOTAL | 2,689,994 | 8,970.5 | 2,602,309 | 8,603.2 | 2,474,481 | 8,113.3 | 2,470,032 | 8,027.5 | 2,534,319 | 8,153.7 | 1.6 | -26.9 |
| DRUGS | 66,593 | 222.1 | 70,922 | 234.5 | 80,142 | 262.8 | 88,091 | 286.3 | 91,920 | 295.7 | 3.3 | 45.2 |
| Cannabis | 47,933 | 159.8 | 50,917 | 168.3 | 60,011 | 196.8 | 66,274 | 215.4 | 70,624 | 227.2 | 5.5 | 91.5 |
| Cocaine | 11,468 | 38.2 | 12,183 | 40.3 | 11,963 | 39.2 | 12,829 | 41.7 | 12,233 | 39.4 | -5.6 | -31.5 |
| Heroin | 1,235 | 4.1 | 1,323 | 4.4 | 1,323 | 4.3 | 1,226 | 4.0 | 965 | 3.1 | -22.1 | -36.1 |
| Other drugs | 5,957 | 19.9 | 6,509 | 21.5 | 6,845 | 22.4 | 7,762 | 25.2 | 8,098 | 26.1 | 3.3 | 15.0 |
| OTHER FEDERAL STATUTES | 35,204 | 117.4 | 35,816 | 118.4 | 38,942 | 127.7 | 34,632 | 112.6 | 38,257 | 123.1 | 9.4 | -5.8 |
| TOTAL FEDERAL STATUTES | 2,791,791 | 9,309.9 | 2,709,047 | 8,956.1 | 2,593,565 | 8,503.7 | 2,592,755 | 8,426.3 | 2,664,496 | 8,572.5 | 1.7 | -26.6 |

* Percent change based on unrounded rates.

¹ Revised figures.

² Rates are calculated on the basis of 100,000 population. The population estimates come from the Annual Demographic Statistics, 2001 report, produced by Statistics Canada, Demography Division. Populations as of July 1st: final postcensal estimates 1997, updated postcensal estimates for 1998, 1999 and 2000, and preliminary postcensal estimates for 2001.

³ The increase in "disturbing the peace" may be, in part, attributable to a national data quality initiative undertaken by the RCMP to properly account for the types of offences that are aggregated under this offence.

⁴ Includes impaired operation of a vehicle causing death, causing bodily harm, alcohol rate over 80mg, failure/refusal to provide a breath/blood sample.

⁵ For further information on changes in the impaired driving figures, please refer to the main text on page 10.

⁶ Beginning in 1999, "fail to stop or remain" incidents for Toronto are now included under "provincial statutes" instead of the Criminal Code.

Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, CCJS.

Table 2

Rates of Criminal Code Incidents, Canada, 1962 - 2001¹

| | Total Criminal Code ² | | Violent crime | | Property crime | | Other Criminal Code | |
|-------------------|----------------------------------|-----------|---------------|-----------|----------------|-----------|---------------------|-----------|
| | Rate | % Change* | Rate | % Change* | Rate | % Change* | Rate | % Change* |
| | | % | | % | | % | | % |
| 1962 | 2,771 | ... | 221 | ... | 1,891 | ... | 659 | ... |
| 1963 | 3,022 | 9.0 | 249 | 13.0 | 2,047 | 8.2 | 726 | 10.1 |
| 1964 | 3,245 | 7.4 | 284 | 13.8 | 2,146 | 4.9 | 815 | 12.3 |
| 1965 | 3,199 | -1.4 | 299 | 5.4 | 2,091 | -2.6 | 809 | -0.7 |
| 1966 | 3,511 | 9.8 | 347 | 15.9 | 2,258 | 8.0 | 907 | 12.0 |
| 1967 | 3,850 | 9.6 | 381 | 9.9 | 2,484 | 10.0 | 985 | 8.7 |
| 1968 | 4,336 | 12.6 | 423 | 11.0 | 2,826 | 13.8 | 1,087 | 10.3 |
| 1969 | 4,737 | 9.3 | 453 | 7.1 | 3,120 | 10.4 | 1,164 | 7.1 |
| 1970 | 5,212 | 10.0 | 481 | 6.2 | 3,515 | 12.6 | 1,217 | 4.6 |
| 1971 | 5,311 | 1.9 | 492 | 2.4 | 3,649 | 3.8 | 1,170 | -3.9 |
| 1972 | 5,355 | 0.8 | 497 | 1.0 | 3,634 | -0.4 | 1,224 | 4.6 |
| 1973 | 5,773 | 7.8 | 524 | 5.3 | 3,704 | 1.9 | 1,546 | 26.3 |
| 1974 | 6,387 | 10.6 | 553 | 5.6 | 4,151 | 12.1 | 1,684 | 8.9 |
| 1975 | 6,852 | 7.3 | 585 | 5.9 | 4,498 | 8.4 | 1,769 | 5.1 |
| 1976 | 6,984 | 1.9 | 584 | -0.2 | 4,533 | 0.8 | 1,867 | 5.6 |
| 1977 | 6,971 | -0.2 | 572 | -2.0 | 4,466 | -1.5 | 1,933 | 3.5 |
| 1978 | 7,154 | 2.6 | 580 | 1.4 | 4,579 | 2.5 | 1,995 | 3.2 |
| 1979 | 7,666 | 7.2 | 610 | 5.1 | 4,903 | 7.1 | 2,153 | 7.9 |
| 1980 | 8,343 | 8.8 | 636 | 4.3 | 5,444 | 11.0 | 2,263 | 5.1 |
| 1981 | 8,736 | 4.7 | 654 | 2.8 | 5,759 | 5.8 | 2,322 | 2.6 |
| 1982 | 8,773 | 0.4 | 671 | 2.7 | 5,840 | 1.4 | 2,262 | -2.6 |
| 1983 | 8,470 | -3.5 | 679 | 1.2 | 5,608 | -4.0 | 2,182 | -3.5 |
| 1984 | 8,387 | -1.0 | 701 | 3.1 | 5,501 | -1.9 | 2,185 | 0.1 |
| 1985 | 8,413 | 0.3 | 735 | 4.8 | 5,451 | -0.9 | 2,227 | 1.9 |
| 1986 | 8,727 | 3.7 | 785 | 6.9 | 5,550 | 1.8 | 2,392 | 7.4 |
| 1987 | 8,956 | 2.6 | 829 | 5.6 | 5,552 | 0.0 | 2,575 | 7.6 |
| 1988 | 8,919 | -0.4 | 868 | 4.6 | 5,438 | -2.1 | 2,612 | 1.5 |
| 1989 | 8,891 | -0.3 | 911 | 5.0 | 5,289 | -2.8 | 2,691 | 3.0 |
| 1990 | 9,484 | 6.7 | 973 | 6.8 | 5,611 | 6.1 | 2,900 | 7.8 |
| 1991 | 10,342 | 9.0 | 1,059 | 8.9 | 6,160 | 9.8 | 3,122 | 7.7 |
| 1992 | 10,036 | -3.0 | 1,084 | 2.3 | 5,902 | -4.2 | 3,051 | -2.3 |
| 1993 | 9,531 | -5.0 | 1,081 | -0.3 | 5,571 | -5.6 | 2,879 | -5.6 |
| 1994 | 9,114 | -4.4 | 1,046 | -3.2 | 5,250 | -5.8 | 2,817 | -2.2 |
| 1995 | 8,993 | -1.3 | 1,007 | -3.7 | 5,283 | 0.6 | 2,702 | -4.1 |
| 1996 | 8,914 | -0.9 | 1,000 | -0.7 | 5,264 | -0.4 | 2,650 | -1.9 |
| 1997 | 8,453 | -5.2 | 990 | -1.0 | 4,867 | -7.5 | 2,596 | -2.1 |
| 1998 | 8,137 | -3.7 | 979 | -1.1 | 4,555 | -6.4 | 2,602 | 0.2 |
| 1999 | 7,728 | -5.0 | 955 | -2.4 | 4,262 | -6.4 | 2,510 | -3.5 |
| 2000 ^r | 7,646 | -1.0 | 982 | 2.8 | 4,070 | -4.5 | 2,594 | 3.4 |
| 2001 | 7,747 | 1.3 | 994 | 1.3 | 4,047 | -0.6 | 2,706 | 4.3 |

* In comparison to the previous year's rate. Percent change based on unrounded rates.

... Figures not applicable.

^r Revised figures.

¹ Rates are calculated on the basis of 100,000 population. The population estimates come from the Annual Demographic Statistics, 2001 report, produced by Statistics Canada, Demography Division. Populations as of July 1st: intercensal estimates for 1962 to 1970, without adjustment for net census undercoverage. Populations as of July 1st: revised intercensal estimates for 1971 to 1990, final intercensal estimates for 1991 to 1995, final postcensal estimates for 1996 and 1997, updated postcensal estimates for 1998 to 2000, and preliminary postcensal estimates for 2001.

² Excluding traffic offences.

Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, CCJS.

Table 3

Selected Criminal Code Incidents, Canada and the Provinces/Territories, 2001¹

| | Nfld.Lab. | P.E.I. | N.S. | N.B. | Que. | Ont. ² | Man. | Sask. | Alta. | B.C. ³ | Yukon | N.W.T. | Nvt. | Canada |
|------------------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|------------------|-------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|-------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|-------------------|
| Population, 2001 | 533,761 | 138,514 | 942,691 | 757,077 | 7,410,504 | 11,874,436 | 1,150,034 | 1,015,783 | 3,064,249 | 4,095,934 | 29,885 | 40,860 | 28,159 | 31,081,887 |
| Homicides | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| number | 1 | 2 | 9 | 8 | 140 | 170 | 34 | 27 | 70 | 85 | 1 | 4 | 3 | 554 |
| rate | 0.2 | 1.4 | 1.0 | 1.1 | 1.9 | 1.4 | 3.0 | 2.7 | 2.3 | 2.1 | 3.3 | 9.8 | 10.7 | 1.8 |
| % change in rate* | -83.2 | -33.5 | -40.1 | -20.2 | -7.1 | 7.2 | 12.9 | 4.5 | 16.5 | -0.9 | -48.8 | 300.5 | -2.6 | 0.4 |
| Sexual Assaults (1,2,3) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| number | 585 | 108 | 851 | 819 | 3,705 | 8,790 | 1,371 | 1,423 | 2,676 | 3,646 | 76 | 147 | 222 | 24,419 |
| rate | 110 | 78 | 90 | 108 | 50 | 74 | 119 | 140 | 87 | 89 | 254 | 360 | 788 | 79 |
| % change in rate* | 3.1 | -0.3 | 13.1 | 10.7 | 7.7 | -2.1 | 0.7 | -6.4 | 5.2 | -2.7 | -9.6 | -18.7 | 2.9 | 0.7 |
| Assaults (1,2,3) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| number | 3,936 | 857 | 7,946 | 5,892 | 37,602 | 82,790 | 14,761 | 14,724 | 26,484 | 39,955 | 960 | 1,730 | 1,526 | 239,163 |
| rate | 737 | 619 | 843 | 778 | 507 | 697 | 1,284 | 1,450 | 864 | 975 | 3,212 | 4,234 | 5,419 | 769 |
| % change in rate* | -2.7 | 2.9 | 4.8 | 3.3 | 0.0 | 1.9 | -1.8 | 8.7 | 3.6 | -2.6 | 16.5 | 5.3 | 13.4 | 1.3 |
| Robbery | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| number | 67 | 23 | 627 | 184 | 7,198 | 8,997 | 1,819 | 1,088 | 2,726 | 4,626 | 27 | 20 | 12 | 27,414 |
| rate | 13 | 17 | 67 | 24 | 97 | 76 | 158 | 107 | 89 | 113 | 90 | 49 | 43 | 88 |
| % change in rate* | 18.3 | 52.8 | 20.4 | 3.1 | -6.2 | 5.4 | -1.8 | 18.5 | 5.6 | -6.0 | 112.5 | 11.2 | -2.6 | 0.4 |
| Violent crime - Total | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| number | 4,762 | 1,033 | 9,865 | 7,482 | 53,309 | 107,211 | 18,626 | 18,307 | 33,672 | 49,851 | 1,121 | 2,011 | 1,851 | 309,101 |
| rate | 892 | 746 | 1,046 | 988 | 719 | 903 | 1,620 | 1,802 | 1,099 | 1,217 | 3,751 | 4,922 | 6,573 | 994 |
| % change in rate* | -1.4 | 2.0 | 5.8 | 4.8 | 0.3 | 1.8 | -1.5 | 8.0 | 3.8 | -2.8 | 12.4 | 1.5 | 8.7 | 1.3 |
| Breaking & Entering | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| number | 3,207 | 740 | 6,595 | 4,773 | 73,969 | 85,230 | 13,310 | 15,103 | 25,650 | 51,933 | 609 | 705 | 688 | 282,512 |
| rate | 601 | 534 | 700 | 630 | 998 | 718 | 1,157 | 1,487 | 837 | 1,268 | 2,038 | 1,725 | 2,443 | 909 |
| % change in rate* | -8.4 | -9.5 | -14.2 | -8.6 | -7.9 | -1.7 | -6.7 | -3.9 | -6.0 | -0.8 | -19.5 | -13.8 | 14.5 | -4.7 |
| Motor Vehicle Theft | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| number | 634 | 272 | 2,755 | 1,765 | 42,054 | 50,067 | 13,206 | 7,986 | 17,467 | 33,242 | 239 | 285 | 241 | 170,213 |
| rate | 119 | 196 | 292 | 233 | 567 | 422 | 1,148 | 786 | 570 | 812 | 800 | 698 | 856 | 548 |
| % change in rate* | -1.1 | 22.7 | -4.1 | 6.8 | -1.4 | 2.2 | 11.5 | 5.2 | 15.0 | 12.5 | 1.1 | 35.9 | 18.5 | 5.1 |
| Other Theft | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| number | 6,887 | 2,637 | 18,515 | 11,875 | 123,170 | 224,958 | 28,786 | 30,195 | 76,024 | 161,490 | 1,115 | 946 | 509 | 687,107 |
| rate | 1,290 | 1,904 | 1,964 | 1,569 | 1,662 | 1,894 | 2,503 | 2,973 | 2,481 | 3,943 | 3,731 | 2,315 | 1,808 | 2,211 |
| % change in rate* | -5.7 | -1.5 | -1.3 | -2.4 | -3.0 | 1.0 | 3.7 | 0.1 | -1.4 | -0.7 | -11.9 | -21.5 | 2.2 | -0.6 |
| Property crime - Total | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| number | 12,190 | 4,086 | 32,516 | 21,400 | 260,136 | 403,718 | 59,070 | 59,548 | 134,995 | 264,246 | 2,157 | 2,118 | 1,549 | 1,257,729 |
| rate | 2,284 | 2,950 | 3,449 | 2,827 | 3,510 | 3,400 | 5,136 | 5,862 | 4,405 | 6,451 | 7,218 | 5,184 | 5,501 | 4,047 |
| % change in rate* | -5.6 | -2.2 | -3.6 | -3.4 | -3.8 | 0.7 | 3.1 | -0.3 | -0.8 | 1.2 | -11.8 | -11.5 | 12.0 | -0.6 |
| Offensive weapons | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| number | 190 | 40 | 623 | 391 | 1,231 | 7,098 | 1,183 | 820 | 1,867 | 3,807 | 57 | 83 | 66 | 17,456 |
| rate | 36 | 29 | 66 | 52 | 17 | 60 | 103 | 81 | 61 | 93 | 191 | 203 | 234 | 56 |
| % change in rate* | 6.8 | 20.8 | 24.4 | 9.3 | 6.6 | 11.2 | 10.9 | 17.4 | 13.2 | 15.5 | -24.2 | 45.8 | 64.8 | 12.8 |
| Mischief | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| number | 5,456 | 1,602 | 11,383 | 7,259 | 51,775 | 104,064 | 25,939 | 20,610 | 43,674 | 60,343 | 1,389 | 3,256 | 1,675 | 338,425 |
| rate | 1,022 | 1,157 | 1,208 | 959 | 699 | 876 | 2,255 | 2,029 | 1,425 | 1,473 | 4,648 | 7,969 | 5,948 | 1,089 |
| % change in rate* | 4.8 | -6.4 | -0.6 | 1.4 | -5.6 | 1.1 | 16.2 | 6.3 | 5.8 | 4.6 | 26.9 | 4.8 | 25.2 | 2.7 |
| Other Criminal Code - Total | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| number | 13,127 | 4,262 | 29,609 | 20,168 | 121,477 | 262,000 | 53,004 | 58,844 | 108,659 | 154,070 | 4,153 | 8,190 | 3,628 | 841,191 |
| rate | 2,459 | 3,077 | 3,141 | 2,664 | 1,639 | 2,206 | 4,609 | 5,793 | 3,546 | 3,762 | 13,897 | 20,044 | 12,884 | 2,706 |
| % change in rate* | 1.8 | 1.6 | 4.8 | -0.7 | -1.1 | 2.8 | 11.5 | 11.0 | 10.3 | 2.9 | 14.6 | 14.6 | 28.2 | 4.3 |
| CRIMINAL CODE - TOTAL - | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| without traffic offences | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| number | 30,079 | 9,381 | 71,990 | 49,050 | 434,922 | 772,929 | 130,700 | 136,699 | 277,326 | 468,167 | 7,431 | 12,319 | 7,028 | 2,408,021 |
| rate | 5,635 | 6,773 | 7,637 | 6,479 | 5,869 | 6,509 | 11,365 | 13,458 | 9,050 | 11,430 | 24,865 | 30,149 | 24,958 | 7,747 |
| % change in rate* | -1.8 | 0.0 | 1.0 | -1.1 | -2.6 | 1.6 | 5.6 | 5.4 | 3.9 | 1.3 | 5.1 | 6.9 | 18.8 | 1.3 |

* In comparison to the previous year rate. Percent change based on unrounded rates.

¹ Rates are calculated on the basis of 100,000 population. The population estimates come from the Annual Demographic Statistics, 2001 report, produced by Statistics Canada, Demography Division.

Populations as of July 1st: updated postcensal estimates for 2000 and preliminary postcensal estimates for 2001.

² OPP data for 2001 were not available due to implementation of a new records management system. As such, 2000 OPP data have been substituted.

³ Data for 2001 include estimates for 3 months for Vancouver Police and 2 months for Port Moody Police, covering the phase-in period required for a new records management system. In addition, from September 2000 to September 2001, as a result of labour action, there were decreases in the number of crimes reported to the Vancouver Police Department for certain offences. As a result, the number of Criminal Code offences reported by Vancouver were affected during this period.

Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, CCJS.

Table 4

Selected Criminal Code Incidents for Major Metropolitan Areas, 2001^{1,2}

| | Toronto | Montréal | Vancouver ³ | Calgary | Edmonton | Ottawa ⁴ | Québec | Winnipeg | Hamilton |
|------------------------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------------|----------------|----------------|---------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| Population 2001 | 4,881,392 | 3,511,845 | 2,078,824 | 971,532 | 956,805 | 844,969 | 693,064 | 684,778 | 680,561 |
| Homicides | | | | | | | | | |
| number | 78 | 78 | 44 | 15 | 25 | 3 | 5 | 19 | 13 |
| rate | 1.6 | 2.2 | 2.1 | 1.5 | 2.6 | 0.4 | 0.7 | 2.8 | 1.9 |
| % change in rate* | -6.0 | 2.9 | 3.7 | -8.6 | 29.5 | -63.2 | -58.5 | 11.3 | 28.4 |
| Sexual assaults (1,2,3) | | | | | | | | | |
| number | 2,802 | 1,646 | 1,269 | 630 | 777 | 253 | 317 | 624 | 487 |
| rate | 57 | 47 | 61 | 65 | 81 | 30 | 46 | 91 | 72 |
| % change in rate* | -2.9 | -0.1 | -2.0 | 5.7 | 4.3 | -33.7 | 17.4 | 4.3 | -8.4 |
| Assaults (1,2,3) | | | | | | | | | |
| number | 32,502 | 21,324 | 16,472 | 6,344 | 6,509 | 4,854 | 2,639 | 6,438 | 5,667 |
| rate | 666 | 607 | 792 | 653 | 680 | 574 | 381 | 940 | 833 |
| % change in rate* | 0.9 | -5.1 | -3.6 | -3.6 | 2.2 | 10.5 | 1.6 | -4.4 | 2.6 |
| Robbery | | | | | | | | | |
| number | 5,427 | 5,611 | 3,512 | 1,052 | 1,402 | 876 | 505 | 1,679 | 555 |
| rate | 111 | 160 | 169 | 108 | 147 | 104 | 73 | 245 | 82 |
| % change in rate* | 4.2 | -7.6 | -9.3 | 2.9 | 8.7 | 9.0 | 4.6 | -2.0 | -5.0 |
| Violent crime - Total | | | | | | | | | |
| number | 42,749 | 30,826 | 21,881 | 8,462 | 9,268 | 6,368 | 3,685 | 8,967 | 6,905 |
| rate | 876 | 878 | 1,053 | 871 | 969 | 754 | 532 | 1,309 | 1,015 |
| % change in rate* | 1.1 | -4.8 | -4.5 | -1.5 | 2.8 | 10.0 | 3.6 | -3.3 | 0.8 |
| Break & enter | | | | | | | | | |
| number | 26,995 | 36,561 | 29,123 | 7,951 | 8,360 | 5,202 | 5,615 | 7,891 | 6,058 |
| rate | 553 | 1,041 | 1,401 | 818 | 874 | 616 | 810 | 1,152 | 890 |
| % change in rate* | 0.3 | -13.0 | -1.5 | -0.1 | -11.6 | -10.1 | -12.3 | -6.0 | 9.3 |
| Motor vehicle theft | | | | | | | | | |
| number | 18,078 | 27,250 | 23,882 | 5,623 | 7,208 | 4,125 | 2,008 | 10,828 | 5,553 |
| rate | 370 | 776 | 1,149 | 579 | 753 | 488 | 290 | 1,581 | 816 |
| % change in rate* | 1.6 | -3.2 | 9.1 | -0.8 | 39.3 | -11.9 | 26.4 | 11.1 | 17.0 |
| Other theft | | | | | | | | | |
| number | 81,374 | 69,482 | 91,545 | 24,462 | 24,440 | 16,577 | 12,153 | 20,107 | 12,851 |
| rate | 1,667 | 1,979 | 4,404 | 2,518 | 2,554 | 1,962 | 1,754 | 2,936 | 1,888 |
| % change in rate* | -1.2 | -4.5 | -0.0 | -4.3 | 0.7 | 7.6 | -0.8 | 5.8 | 3.2 |
| Property crime - Total | | | | | | | | | |
| number | 143,116 | 145,473 | 152,722 | 42,549 | 46,034 | 28,595 | 21,371 | 40,863 | 26,016 |
| rate | 2,932 | 4,142 | 7,347 | 4,380 | 4,811 | 3,384 | 3,084 | 5,967 | 3,823 |
| % change in rate* | -0.0 | -6.0 | 1.4 | -3.5 | 3.2 | 2.4 | -1.3 | 4.7 | 7.3 |
| Offensive weapons | | | | | | | | | |
| number | 1,989 | 481 | 1,995 | 337 | 470 | 345 | 51 | 450 | 255 |
| rate | 41 | 14 | 96 | 35 | 49 | 41 | 7 | 66 | 37 |
| % change in rate* | -1.7 | -3.1 | 22.5 | 9.2 | 6.1 | 33.7 | 23.9 | 10.7 | -11.0 |
| Mischief - | | | | | | | | | |
| number | 28,141 | 24,852 | 24,657 | 9,608 | 12,268 | 6,987 | 5,679 | 15,129 | 6,332 |
| rate | 576 | 708 | 1,186 | 989 | 1,282 | 827 | 819 | 2,209 | 930 |
| % change in rate* | 3.9 | -9.7 | 5.3 | 4.7 | 4.3 | -1.0 | -1.8 | 16.1 | 15.5 |
| Other Criminal Code - Total | | | | | | | | | |
| number | 74,940 | 63,561 | 60,602 | 18,331 | 31,113 | 15,275 | 9,499 | 25,132 | 15,410 |
| rate | 1,535 | 1,810 | 2,915 | 1,887 | 3,252 | 1,808 | 1,371 | 3,670 | 2,264 |
| % change in rate* | 3.8 | -5.6 | 3.0 | 8.6 | 17.7 | 9.5 | -6.5 | 10.9 | 13.7 |
| CRIMINAL CODE - TOTAL - | | | | | | | | | |
| excluding Traffic | | | | | | | | | |
| number | 260,805 | 239,860 | 235,205 | 69,342 | 86,415 | 50,238 | 34,555 | 74,962 | 48,331 |
| rate | 5,343 | 6,830 | 11,314 | 7,137 | 9,032 | 5,946 | 4,986 | 10,947 | 7,102 |
| % change in rate* | 1.3 | -5.7 | 1.2 | -0.3 | 7.9 | 5.4 | -2.3 | 5.6 | 8.3 |

* In comparison to the previous year rate. Percent change based on unrounded rates.

¹ Rates are calculated on the basis of 100,000 population. The population estimates come from the Annual Demographic Statistics, 2001 report, produced by Statistics Canada, Demography Division. Populations as of July 1st: updated postcensal estimates for 2000 and preliminary postcensal estimates for 2001.

² Please note that a CMA typically comprises more than one police force.

³ Data for 2001 include estimates for 3 months for Vancouver Police covering the phase-in period required for a new records management system. In addition, from September 2000 to September 2001, as a result of labour action, there were decreases in the number of crimes reported to the Vancouver Police Department for certain offences. As a result, the number of Criminal Code offences reported by Vancouver were affected during this period.

⁴ Ottawa represents the Ontario part of the Ottawa-Hull CMA.

Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, CCJS.

Table 5

Crime Rates for Census Metropolitan Areas by Type of Incident, Canada, 2001^{1,2}

| | Population | Total CC Offences | | Violent crime | | Property crime | | Other crimes | |
|---|------------|-------------------|-------------------|---------------|------------------|----------------|------------------|--------------|------------------|
| | | 2001 rate | % change in rate* | 2001 rate | % change in rate | 2001 rate | % change in rate | 2001 rate | % change in rate |
| CMAs with population of 500,000 and over | | | | | | | | | |
| Vancouver ³ | 2,078,824 | 11,314 | 1.2 | 1,053 | -4.5 | 7,347 | 1.4 | 2,896 | 2.3 |
| Winnipeg | 684,778 | 10,947 | 5.6 | 1,309 | -3.3 | 5,967 | 4.7 | 3,670 | 10.9 |
| Edmonton | 956,805 | 9,032 | 7.9 | 969 | 2.8 | 4,811 | 3.2 | 3,252 | 17.7 |
| Calgary | 971,532 | 7,137 | -0.3 | 871 | -1.5 | 4,380 | -3.5 | 1,887 | 8.6 |
| Hamilton | 680,561 | 7,102 | 8.3 | 1,015 | 0.8 | 3,823 | 7.3 | 2,264 | 13.7 |
| Montréal | 3,511,845 | 6,830 | -5.7 | 878 | -4.8 | 4,142 | -6.0 | 1,810 | -5.6 |
| Ottawa ⁴ | 844,969 | 5,946 | 5.4 | 754 | 10.0 | 3,384 | 2.4 | 1,808 | 9.5 |
| Toronto | 4,881,392 | 5,343 | 1.3 | 876 | 1.1 | 2,932 | 0.0 | 1,535 | 3.8 |
| Québec | 693,064 | 4,986 | -2.3 | 532 | 3.6 | 3,084 | -1.3 | 1,371 | -6.5 |
| CMAs with population between 100,000 and 500,000 | | | | | | | | | |
| Regina | 198,125 | 16,387 | 10.1 | 1,614 | 0.0 | 9,661 | 14.0 | 5,112 | 6.7 |
| Saskatoon | 230,517 | 13,360 | 2.9 | 1,663 | 11.2 | 6,616 | -4.0 | 5,080 | 10.5 |
| Victoria | 318,796 | 9,996 | -5.7 | 1,132 | 1.1 | 5,382 | -3.0 | 3,481 | -11.6 |
| Halifax | 359,186 | 9,354 | 6.1 | 1,266 | 12.4 | 5,091 | -2.1 | 2,998 | 20.2 |
| Thunder Bay | 124,581 | 8,602 | -3.7 | 1,390 | 0.0 | 3,916 | -8.8 | 3,296 | 1.3 |
| London ⁵ | 383,708 | 7,894 | -9.3 | 761 | -9.0 | 4,796 | -9.5 | 2,337 | -9.0 |
| Sudbury | 156,714 | 7,535 | 11.8 | 1,163 | 20.1 | 3,935 | 6.2 | 2,438 | 17.8 |
| Windsor | 313,838 | 7,374 | 4.9 | 783 | 4.5 | 3,936 | 3.6 | 2,655 | 7.0 |
| St. Catharines-Niagara ⁵ | 427,023 | 6,826 | 4.5 | 664 | 6.9 | 3,861 | 4.5 | 2,300 | 4.0 |
| Saint John ⁵ | 147,086 | 6,612 | 3.8 | 1,146 | 8.0 | 3,107 | 1.7 | 2,359 | 4.7 |
| Sherbrooke ⁵ | 144,970 | 6,541 | 12.7 | 461 | 6.0 | 4,293 | 9.8 | 1,787 | 22.6 |
| St. John's | 176,163 | 6,406 | -4.8 | 885 | 4.5 | 3,433 | -10.0 | 2,088 | 1.0 |
| Hull ⁶ | 261,981 | 6,185 | -3.8 | 910 | 17.7 | 3,320 | -10.1 | 1,955 | -0.3 |
| Kitchener ⁵ | 456,523 | 5,709 | -3.7 | 633 | -8.3 | 3,535 | -2.3 | 1,542 | -4.9 |
| Trois-Rivières | 141,535 | 5,094 | -2.3 | 492 | 7.8 | 2,982 | -9.2 | 1,620 | 10.1 |
| Chicoutimi-Jonquière ⁵ | 143,445 | 4,986 | -2.1 | 517 | -8.0 | 2,941 | -6.1 | 1,527 | 9.2 |

* In comparison to the previous year rate. Percent change based on un-rounded rates.

¹ Please note that a CMA typically comprises more than one police force. Also, note that the Oshawa Census Metropolitan Area (CMA) is excluded from this table due to the incongruity between the police agency jurisdictional boundaries and the CMA boundaries.

² Rates are calculated per 100,000 population. The population estimates come from the Annual Demographic Statistics, 2001 report, produced by Statistics Canada, Demography Division. Populations as of July 1st: updated postcensal estimates for 2000 and preliminary postcensal estimates for 2001.

³ Data for 2001 include estimates for 3 months for Vancouver Police, covering the phase-in period required for a new records management system. In addition, from September 2000 to September 2001, as a result of labour action, there were decreases in the number of crimes reported to the Vancouver Police Department for certain offences. As a result, the number of Criminal Code offences reported by Vancouver were affected during this period.

⁴ Ottawa refers to the Ontario part of the Ottawa-Hull CMA.

⁵ Populations were adjusted to follow policing boundaries.

⁶ Hull refers to the Québec part of the Ottawa-Hull CMA.

Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, CCJS.

Table 6

Persons Charged by Age Group and Sex, Selected Incidents, 2001

| | Age Group by Sex | | | | Total by Age Group | |
|--|-------------------------|-----------|---------------------|-----------|--------------------|-----------|
| | Adults (18 and over) | | Youth (12 to 17) | | Adult | Youth |
| | Male | Female | Male | Female | | |
| | % | | % | | % | |
| Homicide ¹ | 86 | 14 | 83 | 17 | 93 | 7 |
| Attempted murder | 88 | 12 | 94 | 6 | 89 | 11 |
| Assaults | 83 | 17 | 70 | 30 | 85 | 15 |
| Sexual assaults | 98 | 2 | 96 | 4 | 83 | 17 |
| Other sexual offences | 98 | 2 | 96 | 4 | 80 | 20 |
| Abduction | 45 | 55 | 33 | 67 | 98 | 2 |
| Robbery | 91 | 9 | 85 | 15 | 66 | 34 |
| Violent crime - Total | 84 | 16 | 74 | 26 | 84 | 16 |
| Break and enter | 93 | 7 | 90 | 10 | 63 | 37 |
| Motor vehicle theft | 92 | 8 | 83 | 17 | 58 | 42 |
| Fraud | 70 | 30 | 65 | 35 | 92 | 8 |
| Theft over \$5,000 | 75 | 25 | 84 | 16 | 88 | 12 |
| Theft \$5,000 and under | 71 | 29 | 65 | 35 | 74 | 26 |
| Property crime - Total | 77 | 23 | 76 | 24 | 73 | 27 |
| Mischief | 87 | 13 | 87 | 13 | 67 | 33 |
| Arson | 83 | 17 | 87 | 13 | 53 | 47 |
| Prostitution | 50 | 50 | 21 | 79 | 99 | 1 |
| Offensive weapons | 93 | 7 | 92 | 8 | 78 | 22 |
| Criminal Code - Total (excluding traffic) | 82 | 18 | 76 | 24 | 80 | 20 |
| Impaired driving ² | 88 | 12 | 88 | 12 | 99 | 1 |
| Cannabis Offences | 88 | 12 | 88 | 12 | 82 | 18 |
| Cocaine Offences | 83 | 17 | 80 | 20 | 95 | 5 |
| Other Drug Offences | 83 | 17 | 78 | 22 | 88 | 12 |

¹ These data are based on the Homicide Survey, CCJS.

² Includes impaired operation of a vehicle causing death, causing bodily harm, alcohol rate over 80 mg., failure/refusal to provide a breath/blood sample. Age of persons charged with impaired driving comes from the Incident-based survey (UCR2).

Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, CCJS.

Table 7

Youths Charged with Selected Criminal Code Incidents, Canada, 1991 - 2001¹

| | 1991 | 1992 | 1993 | 1994 | 1995 | 1996 | 1997 | 1998 | 1999 | 2000 ^r | 2001 |
|--|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| Population (aged 12-17) | 2,273,918 | 2,305,122 | 2,330,853 | 2,359,067 | 2,386,301 | 2,417,604 | 2,439,553 | 2,449,643 | 2,449,620 | 2,452,048 | 2,470,985 |
| Homicide | | | | | | | | | | | |
| number | 49 | 53 | 36 | 52 | 63 | 49 | 53 | 56 | 45 | 43 | 30 |
| rate | 2.2 | 2.3 | 1.5 | 2.2 | 2.6 | 2.0 | 2.2 | 2.3 | 1.8 | 1.8 | 1.2 |
| % change in rate* | 3.4 | 6.7 | -32.8 | 42.7 | 19.8 | -23.2 | 7.2 | 5.2 | -19.6 | -4.5 | -30.8 |
| Assaults (levels 1, 2, 3) | | | | | | | | | | | |
| number | 12,815 | 13,584 | 14,981 | 15,363 | 15,898 | 15,945 | 15,612 | 15,862 | 15,354 | 16,410 | 16,653 |
| rate | 564 | 589 | 643 | 651 | 666 | 660 | 640 | 648 | 627 | 669 | 674 |
| % change in rate* | 17.8 | 4.6 | 9.1 | 1.3 | 2.3 | -1.0 | -3.0 | 1.2 | -3.2 | 6.8 | 0.7 |
| Sexual assaults (levels 1, 2, 3) | | | | | | | | | | | |
| number | 1,906 | 2,074 | 2,132 | 1,896 | 1,586 | 1,581 | 1,494 | 1,440 | 1,422 | 1,693 | 1,604 |
| rate | 84 | 90 | 91 | 80 | 66 | 65 | 61 | 59 | 58 | 69 | 65 |
| % change in rate* | 17.5 | 7.3 | 1.7 | -12.1 | -17.3 | -1.6 | -6.4 | -4.0 | -1.2 | 18.9 | -6.0 |
| Robbery | | | | | | | | | | | |
| number | 2,746 | 2,966 | 2,996 | 3,006 | 3,535 | 3,741 | 3,792 | 3,576 | 3,175 | 3,264 | 3,602 |
| rate | 121 | 129 | 129 | 127 | 148 | 155 | 155 | 146 | 130 | 133 | 146 |
| % change in rate* | 32.6 | 6.5 | -0.1 | -0.9 | 16.3 | 4.5 | 0.5 | -6.1 | -11.2 | 2.7 | 9.5 |
| Total Violent Crime | | | | | | | | | | | |
| number | 18,919 | 20,028 | 21,477 | 21,629 | 22,441 | 22,521 | 22,172 | 22,195 | 21,102 | 22,655 | 23,236 |
| rate | 832 | 869 | 921 | 917 | 940 | 932 | 909 | 906 | 861 | 924 | 940 |
| % change in rate* | 19.6 | 4.4 | 6.1 | -0.5 | 2.6 | -0.9 | -2.4 | -0.3 | -4.9 | 7.3 | 1.8 |
| Break and enter | | | | | | | | | | | |
| number | 26,901 | 24,747 | 21,947 | 19,992 | 18,654 | 18,532 | 17,092 | 16,007 | 13,266 | 12,531 | 11,841 |
| rate | 1,183 | 1,074 | 942 | 847 | 782 | 767 | 701 | 653 | 542 | 511 | 479 |
| % change in rate* | 10.9 | -9.3 | -12.3 | -10.0 | -7.8 | -1.9 | -8.6 | -6.7 | -17.1 | -5.6 | -6.2 |
| Motor vehicle theft | | | | | | | | | | | |
| number | 8,768 | 8,122 | 8,211 | 7,476 | 6,875 | 7,011 | 6,468 | 6,228 | 5,508 | 5,706 | 6,162 |
| rate | 386 | 352 | 352 | 317 | 288 | 290 | 265 | 254 | 225 | 233 | 249 |
| % change in rate* | 9.5 | -8.6 | 0.0 | -10.0 | -9.1 | 0.7 | -8.6 | -4.1 | -11.6 | 3.5 | 7.2 |
| Other Theft | | | | | | | | | | | |
| number | 45,221 | 39,648 | 35,301 | 32,228 | 33,762 | 32,473 | 27,060 | 24,744 | 21,879 | 20,395 | 19,585 |
| rate | 1,989 | 1,720 | 1,515 | 1,366 | 1,415 | 1,343 | 1,109 | 1,010 | 893 | 832 | 793 |
| % change in rate* | 5.5 | -13.5 | -11.9 | -9.8 | 3.6 | -5.1 | -17.4 | -8.9 | -11.6 | -6.9 | -4.7 |
| Total Property crime | | | | | | | | | | | |
| number | 91,656 | 83,603 | 74,981 | 68,907 | 68,105 | 66,702 | 58,340 | 54,104 | 48,009 | 46,261 | 45,071 |
| rate | 4,031 | 3,627 | 3,217 | 2,921 | 2,854 | 2,759 | 2,391 | 2,209 | 1,960 | 1,887 | 1,824 |
| % change in rate* | 8.6 | -10.0 | -11.3 | -9.2 | -2.3 | -3.3 | -13.3 | -7.6 | -11.3 | -3.7 | -3.3 |
| Offensive weapons | | | | | | | | | | | |
| number | 2,020 | 1,906 | 1,932 | 1,963 | 1,693 | 1,551 | 1,478 | 1,457 | 1,438 | 1,528 | 1,676 |
| rate | 89 | 83 | 83 | 83 | 71 | 64 | 61 | 59 | 59 | 62 | 68 |
| % change in rate* | 10.8 | -6.9 | 0.2 | 0.4 | -14.7 | -9.6 | -5.6 | -1.8 | -1.3 | 6.2 | 8.8 |
| Mischief | | | | | | | | | | | |
| number | 9,725 | 9,066 | 8,214 | 7,687 | 7,745 | 7,695 | 7,005 | 6,926 | 6,623 | 6,996 | 7,186 |
| rate | 428 | 393 | 352 | 326 | 325 | 318 | 287 | 283 | 270 | 285 | 291 |
| % change in rate* | 11.6 | -8.0 | -10.4 | -7.5 | -0.4 | -1.9 | -9.8 | -1.5 | -4.4 | 5.5 | 1.9 |
| Total Other Criminal Code | | | | | | | | | | | |
| number | 31,741 | 31,651 | 30,429 | 29,089 | 30,117 | 30,187 | 30,329 | 31,153 | 30,211 | 31,944 | 34,006 |
| rate | 1,396 | 1,373 | 1,305 | 1,233 | 1,262 | 1,249 | 1,243 | 1,272 | 1,233 | 1,303 | 1,376 |
| % change in rate* | 16.1 | -1.6 | -4.9 | -5.5 | 2.4 | -1.1 | -0.4 | 2.3 | -3.0 | 5.6 | 5.6 |
| Drugs | | | | | | | | | | | |
| number | 2633 | 2657 | 3426 | 4800 | 5067 | 5431 | 5049 | 5561 | 6571 | 7837 | 8363 |
| rate | 116 | 115 | 147 | 203 | 212 | 225 | 207 | 227 | 268 | 320 | 338 |
| % change in rate* | -15.8 | -0.5 | 27.5 | 38.4 | 4.4 | 5.8 | -7.9 | 9.7 | 18.2 | 19.1 | 5.9 |
| Total Criminal Code (Excluding Traffic) | | | | | | | | | | | |
| number | 142,316 | 135,282 | 126,887 | 119,625 | 120,663 | 119,410 | 110,841 | 107,452 | 99,322 | 100,860 | 102,313 |
| rate | 6,259 | 5,869 | 5,444 | 5,071 | 5,056 | 4,939 | 4,543 | 4,386 | 4,055 | 4,113 | 4,141 |
| % change in rate* | 11.6 | -6.2 | -7.2 | -6.9 | -0.3 | -2.3 | -8.0 | -3.5 | -7.6 | 1.4 | 0.7 |

* In comparison to the previous year rate. Percent change based on unrounded rates.

^r Revised figures

¹ Rates are calculated on the basis of 100,000 youths. The population estimates come from the Annual Demographic Statistics, 2001 report, produced by Statistics Canada, Demography Division. Populations as of July 1st: final intercensal estimates for 1991 to 1995, final postcensal estimates for 1996 and 1997, updated postcensal estimates from 1998 to 2000 and preliminary postcensal estimates for 2001.

Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, CCJS.

Table 8

Youth Charged With Selected Criminal Code Incidents, Canada and the Provinces/Territories, 2001¹

| | Nfld.Lab. | P.E.I. | N.S. | N.B. | Que. | Ont. ² | Man. | Sask. | Alta. | B.C. ³ | Yukon | N.W.T. | Nvt. | Canada |
|--|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|----------------|-------------------|---------------|---------------|----------------|-------------------|--------------|---------------|--------------|------------------|
| Population 2001 | 45,004 | 12,291 | 76,121 | 59,956 | 540,231 | 943,865 | 99,896 | 94,715 | 268,404 | 320,057 | 2,892 | 4,075 | 3,478 | 2,470,985 |
| Homicide | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| number | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 11 | 3 | 3 | 7 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 30 |
| rate | 0.0 | 0.0 | 2.6 | 0.0 | 0.4 | 1.2 | 3.0 | 3.2 | 2.6 | 0.6 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1.2 |
| % change in rate* | -100.0 | 0.0 | 100.0 | -100.0 | -60.0 | -10.0 | -73.0 | 202.2 | 15.5 | -50.2 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | -30.8 |
| Sexual Assault (1,2,3) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| number | 53 | 4 | 39 | 48 | 170 | 675 | 85 | 87 | 182 | 231 | 7 | 9 | 14 | 1,604 |
| rate | 118 | 33 | 51 | 80 | 31 | 72 | 85 | 92 | 68 | 72 | 242 | 221 | 403 | 65 |
| % change in rate* | -8.5 | -19.7 | -29.1 | 12.7 | 18.2 | -12.8 | -10.6 | -21.7 | -0.5 | 9.0 | -20.0 | -1.2 | 33.5 | -6.0 |
| Assault (1,2,3) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| number | 295 | 53 | 431 | 386 | 2,158 | 7,153 | 1,136 | 1,077 | 1,969 | 1,855 | 39 | 66 | 35 | 16,653 |
| rate | 655 | 431 | 566 | 644 | 399 | 758 | 1,137 | 1,137 | 734 | 580 | 1,349 | 1,620 | 1,006 | 674 |
| % change in rate* | -8.3 | 97.0 | 10.8 | -12.9 | 5.1 | -3.0 | 6.6 | 11.7 | 7.7 | -5.6 | 5.6 | 81.2 | -37.0 | 0.7 |
| Robbery | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| number | 19 | 3 | 82 | 37 | 499 | 1,649 | 302 | 261 | 404 | 336 | 4 | 2 | 4 | 3,602 |
| rate | 42 | 24 | 108 | 62 | 92 | 175 | 302 | 276 | 151 | 105 | 138 | 49 | 115 | 146 |
| % change in rate* | 9.3 | 0.4 | 17.2 | 43.6 | 8.4 | 15.5 | 8.6 | 12.8 | -14.0 | 8.6 | 311.6 | ... | 90.7 | 9.5 |
| Violent crime - Total | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| number | 385 | 67 | 597 | 528 | 3,039 | 10,034 | 1,590 | 1,563 | 2,688 | 2,543 | 53 | 86 | 63 | 23,236 |
| rate | 855 | 545 | 784 | 881 | 563 | 1,063 | 1,592 | 1,650 | 1,001 | 795 | 1,833 | 2,110 | 1,811 | 940 |
| % change in rate* | -9.4 | 72.5 | 8.0 | -4.0 | 5.8 | -0.7 | 4.9 | 10.1 | 3.2 | -2.1 | 9.1 | 51.8 | -17.7 | 1.8 |
| Breaking & Entering | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| number | 450 | 66 | 403 | 254 | 1,396 | 3,594 | 914 | 1,604 | 1,518 | 1,339 | 24 | 156 | 123 | 11,841 |
| rate | 1,000 | 537 | 529 | 424 | 258 | 381 | 915 | 1,694 | 566 | 418 | 830 | 3,828 | 3,537 | 479 |
| % change in rate* | 17.4 | 113.7 | -6.3 | -21.4 | -11.1 | -7.3 | -7.1 | -8.4 | -12.1 | 6.1 | -65.2 | 13.4 | 109.4 | -6.2 |
| Motor Vehicle Theft | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| number | 118 | 32 | 176 | 112 | 593 | 1,941 | 782 | 798 | 1,002 | 541 | 15 | 32 | 20 | 6,162 |
| rate | 262 | 260 | 231 | 187 | 110 | 206 | 783 | 843 | 373 | 169 | 519 | 785 | 575 | 249 |
| % change in rate* | 60.8 | -31.7 | -7.8 | 5.6 | -0.4 | 8.3 | -2.1 | 16.5 | 22.5 | -3.1 | -46.8 | 2.0 | -17.1 | 7.2 |
| Other Theft | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| number | 420 | 79 | 388 | 573 | 2,130 | 7,873 | 1,360 | 1,412 | 2,554 | 2,689 | 28 | 60 | 19 | 19,585 |
| rate | 933 | 643 | 510 | 956 | 394 | 834 | 1,361 | 1,491 | 952 | 840 | 968 | 1,472 | 546 | 793 |
| % change in rate* | 15.7 | 20.2 | -23.9 | -15.5 | 6.0 | -2.7 | 2.3 | -0.5 | -8.6 | -15.5 | -55.7 | 14.1 | 51.0 | -4.7 |
| Property crime - Total | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| number | 1,056 | 199 | 1,239 | 1,069 | 4,652 | 17,000 | 3,508 | 4,534 | 6,175 | 5,136 | 85 | 253 | 165 | 45,071 |
| rate | 2,346 | 1,619 | 1,628 | 1,783 | 861 | 1,801 | 3,512 | 4,787 | 2,301 | 1,605 | 2,939 | 6,209 | 4,744 | 1,824 |
| % change in rate* | 18.9 | 16.1 | -15.5 | -16.5 | 0.6 | -1.2 | 1.9 | -0.7 | -7.2 | -11.4 | -53.5 | 6.9 | 67.4 | -3.3 |
| Offensive weapons | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| number | 15 | 0 | 27 | 31 | 78 | 749 | 169 | 106 | 287 | 202 | 3 | 3 | 6 | 1,676 |
| rate | 33 | 0 | 35 | 52 | 14 | 79 | 169 | 112 | 107 | 63 | 104 | 74 | 173 | 68 |
| % change in rate* | 55.3 | ... | 17.4 | 140.7 | 39.4 | -0.7 | 7.1 | 33.5 | 21.9 | -0.5 | -22.8 | 196.5 | 43.0 | 8.8 |
| Mischief | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| number | 199 | 31 | 221 | 276 | 707 | 2,513 | 431 | 812 | 1,027 | 856 | 19 | 76 | 18 | 7,186 |
| rate | 442 | 252 | 290 | 460 | 131 | 266 | 431 | 857 | 383 | 267 | 657 | 1,865 | 518 | 291 |
| % change in rate* | 17.1 | 3.7 | -24.8 | 19.5 | 2.1 | 3.4 | -18.0 | 9.8 | -2.0 | 5.8 | -32.6 | 87.8 | 145.2 | 1.9 |
| Other Criminal Code - Total | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| number | 766 | 91 | 900 | 928 | 2,681 | 13,860 | 2,406 | 4,509 | 4,725 | 2,716 | 91 | 262 | 71 | 34,006 |
| rate | 1,702 | 740 | 1,182 | 1,548 | 496 | 1,468 | 2,409 | 4,761 | 1,760 | 849 | 3,147 | 6,429 | 2,041 | 1,376 |
| % change in rate* | 23.6 | -5.8 | -13.1 | 5.8 | 3.5 | 3.3 | 5.2 | 22.0 | 4.6 | -0.2 | -37.2 | 63.9 | 47.2 | 5.6 |
| CRIMINAL CODE - TOTAL - (Excluding Traffic) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| number | 2,207 | 357 | 2,736 | 2,525 | 10,372 | 40,894 | 7,504 | 10,606 | 13,588 | 10,395 | 229 | 601 | 299 | 102,313 |
| rate | 4,904 | 2,905 | 3,594 | 4,211 | 1,920 | 4,333 | 7,512 | 11,198 | 5,063 | 3,248 | 7,918 | 14,748 | 8,597 | 4,141 |
| % change in rate* | 14.2 | 16.4 | -10.5 | -6.7 | 2.8 | 0.4 | 3.6 | 9.6 | -1.4 | -6.5 | -39.1 | 32.6 | 33.8 | 0.7 |

* In comparison to the previous year rate. Percent change based on unrounded rates.

... Figures not appropriate or applicable

¹ Rates are calculated on the basis of 100,000 population. The population estimates come from the Annual Demographic Statistics, 2001 report, produced by Statistics Canada, Demography Division. Populations as of July 1st: updated postcensal estimates for 2000 and preliminary postcensal estimates for 2001.

² OPP data for 2001 were not available due to implementation of a new records management system. As such, 2000 OPP data have been substituted.

³ Data for 2001 include estimates for 3 months for Vancouver Police and 2 months for Port Moody Police, covering the phase-in period required for a new records management system. In addition, from September 2000 to September 2001, as a result of labour action, there were decreases in the number of crimes reported to the Vancouver Police Department for certain offences. As a result, the number of Criminal Code offences reported by Vancouver were affected during this period.

Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, CCJS.

Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics

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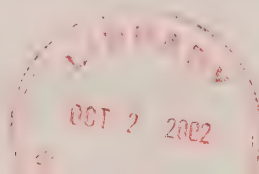


HOMICIDE IN CANADA, 2001

by *Mia Dauvergne*

Highlights

- There were 554 homicides in Canada in 2001, 8 more than the previous year. The national homicide rate remained relatively stable for the third consecutive year at 1.78 homicides per 100,000 population. This rate has gradually been decreasing since the mid-1970s.
- As has generally been the case historically, homicide rates were higher in the west than in the east in 2001. Among the provinces, Manitoba recorded the highest rate (2.96 homicides per 100,000 population) followed by Saskatchewan (2.66). The lowest rates were found in Newfoundland & Labrador (0.19), Nova Scotia (0.95) and New Brunswick (1.06).
- Among the nine largest metropolitan areas, Winnipeg (2.77) reported the highest homicide rate followed by Edmonton (2.61), while Ottawa (0.36) and Québec (0.72) reported the lowest rates. For the 17 midsize and smaller metropolitan areas, Regina (3.53) and Sudbury (3.19) recorded the highest rates, while Sherbrooke, with zero homicides, had the lowest.
- Most homicides are committed by someone known to the victim. In 2001, 87% of solved homicides were committed by an acquaintance or a family member, while the remaining 13% were committed by a stranger. Almost two-thirds of multiple-victim homicides, as well as 9 in 10 murder-suicides, were family-related.
- Although family-related homicides, including spousal homicides, rose in 2001, the numbers remained similar to the average over the previous ten years. The largest increase was among victims who were killed by their husbands – 69 wives were killed in 2001, 17 more than in 2000.
- Among solved homicides in 2001, almost one in four victims were killed by a person with whom they had an intimate relationship at one point in time, either through marriage or dating. Intimate partners killed 52% of all female victims and 8% of all male victims.
- There were 30 youths accused of committing homicide in 2001, 22 fewer than the average over the past decade. This figure represents the lowest number of youths accused since 1969 and the lowest rate since 1971.
- Gang-related killings (62) declined in 2001 from the previous year, yet continued to account for one in nine homicide victims. The number of gang-related murders had more than tripled from 22 in 1991 to the peak of 72 in 2000.
- Firearms continued to be the weapon used in about one-third of all homicides in 2001, with handguns used in almost two-thirds of all shootings. Stabbings comprised the same proportion of homicides as firearms, while beatings were the cause of death in 22% of homicides.
- In 2001, two-thirds of persons accused of homicide and half of all homicide victims 12 years and over had a Canadian criminal record. The majority of these persons had been previously convicted of a violent offence.



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INTRODUCTION

Results from recent studies such as the 2000 International Crime Victimization Survey (ICVS)¹ suggest that, relative to other countries, most Canadians feel safe from being a victim of crime. A high proportion of Canadians (83%) reported that they felt safe when walking alone in their area after dark or when home alone at night. Findings from the 1999 General Social Survey (GSS)² indicate that many Canadians perceive crime as having stabilized over the past five years and feel less fearful of being a victim of crime in their neighbourhoods compared to 1993, lending further support to the results from the ICVS. Police-reported crime statistics are consistent with these survey results, reflecting nine consecutive years of decline between 1992 and 2000. However, data for 2001 indicate that the overall crime rate in Canada, as well as the violent crime rate, increased by 1% from the previous year.³

Using data collected from the Homicide Survey,⁴ this *Juristat* examines long and short-term trends for the most serious violent crime – homicide. Detailed information is reported on the characteristics of homicide incidents, victims and accused. Homicide statistics are presented at the national, provincial/territorial and census metropolitan area levels.

In Canada, criminal homicide is classified as first degree murder, second degree murder, manslaughter or infanticide (see Glossary section for definitions). Deaths caused by criminal negligence, suicide, and accidental or justifiable homicide are not included in this classification.

GENERAL TRENDS

Homicide rate remains stable in 2001

Homicide is a relatively rare occurrence in Canada. The 554 homicides reported in 2001 (eight more than the previous year) accounted for 0.02% of the 2.5 million *Criminal Code* incidents reported to police. By comparison, there were approximately 700 attempted murders, 27,000 robberies, 250,000 assaults and over one million property offences.

Since 1961, when national homicide statistics were first collected, there have been two distinct trends. After several years of stability, the homicide rate more than doubled, from 1.25 per 100,000 population in 1966 to a peak of 3.03 in 1975. Since 1975, despite yearly fluctuations, the homicide rate gradually declined until the late 1990s when the rate showed signs of stabilization at 1.8 homicides per 100,000 population. In 2001, the homicide rate was 1.78, 41% lower than in 1975 (Figure 1).

The number of homicide incidents reported in 2001 also remained stable from the previous year. There were a total of 515 incidents, one less than in 2000 and considerably lower than the preceding 10-year average of 575. As has been the case historically, the incident count in 2001 was lower than the victim count due to cases that involved more than one victim.

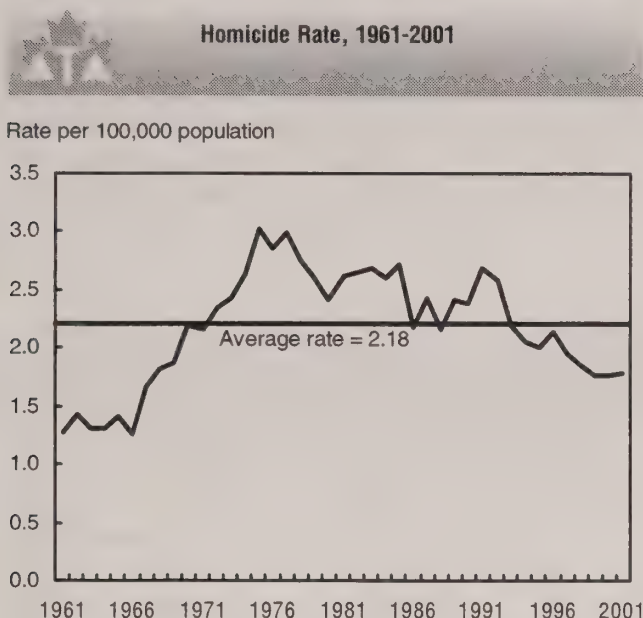
¹ For more information on results from the International Crime Victimization Survey, see Besserer, S. (2002). "Criminal Victimization: An International Perspective". *Juristat*, Catalogue 85-002-XPE. Vol. 22, no. 4. Ottawa: Statistics Canada.

² For more information on results from the General Social Survey, see Besserer, S. and C. Trainor. (2000). "Criminal Victimization in Canada, 1999". *Juristat*, Catalogue 85-002-XPE. Vol. 20, no. 10. Ottawa: Statistics Canada.

³ Savoie, J. (2002). "Canadian Crime Statistics – 2001". *Juristat*, Catalogue 85-002-XPE. Vol. 22, no. 6. Ottawa: Statistics Canada.

⁴ For more information on the Homicide Survey see the Methodology section at the end of this report.

Figure 1



Source: Homicide Survey, Policing Services Program, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada, September 2002.

Homicides rise in the United States

During the 90s, the crime rate as well as the homicide rate decreased in both Canada and the United States.⁵ However, according to preliminary figures for 2001, the Federal Bureau of Investigation reported that the number of major crimes in the United States rose by 2.0% from the previous year, ending a decline in violence that had resulted in the lowest crime levels in a generation.⁶ The increase included a 3.1% rise in the number of homicides reported by police departments nationwide. There were about 16,000 homicides reported in 2001 (excluding the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks), representing a rate of about 5.6 per 100,000 population. Had the deaths resulting from the terrorist attacks been included, the number of homicides would have increased by 26% from 2000.

Although the 2001 homicide rate in Canada was three times lower than the U.S. rate, it was still higher than some European countries, such as Norway and Germany (Table 1). In 2001, Canada's homicide rate was the same as the rate in France.⁷

GEOGRAPHICAL PATTERNS IN HOMICIDE

Provincial homicide rates decline or remain stable

The overall decline in the national homicide rate since the mid-1970s reflects general declines experienced in many provinces during that period. However, rates in the Atlantic provinces have remained relatively constant over the past 25 years. Rates in the western provinces, while generally higher than the national rate, have been gradually declining.

Table 1

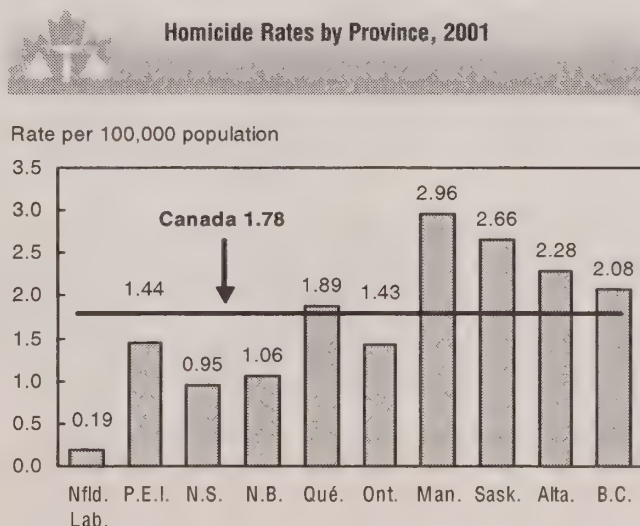
Homicide Rates for Selected Countries, 2001

| Country | Homicide rate per 100,000 population |
|-----------------|--------------------------------------|
| Russia | 21.13 |
| United States | 5.64 |
| Finland | 2.98 |
| Hungary | 2.48 |
| Austria | 1.93 |
| Sweden | 1.87 |
| France | 1.78 |
| Canada | 1.78 |
| England & Wales | 1.66 |
| Ireland | 1.60 |
| Germany | 1.05 |
| Norway | 0.81 |

Source: National Central Bureau - Interpol Ottawa.

Historically, homicide rates in the western provinces have been consistently higher than rates in the east. This continued to be the case in 2001 (Figure 2). Among the provinces, Manitoba recorded the highest rate (2.96 homicides per 100,000 population), followed by Saskatchewan (2.66). The lowest rates were reported in Newfoundland and Labrador (0.19), Nova Scotia (0.95) and New Brunswick (1.06).

Figure 2



Source: Homicide Survey, Policing Services Program, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada, September 2002.

⁵ For more information on crime comparisons between Canada and the U.S., see Gannon, M. (2001). "Crime comparisons between Canada and the U.S." Juristat, Catalogue 85-002-XPE, Vol. 21, No. 11. Ottawa: Statistics Canada.

⁶ U.S. Department of Justice. Federal Bureau of Investigation. Press Release. June 24, 2002.

⁷ Information provided by the National Central Bureau - Interpol Ottawa.

Half of the provinces reported decreases in the number of homicides in 2001 – Newfoundland and Labrador, Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, and Québec (Table 2). The largest decline was reported in Québec, where there were 10 fewer homicides compared to 2000. The decrease in Nova Scotia from 15 homicides in 2000 to 9 in 2001 resulted in the lowest rate (0.95) in that province since 1963. The number of homicides reported in British Columbia⁸ remained unchanged from the previous year, and the rates in

2000 and 2001 were the lowest since 1964. The largest increase in the number of reported homicides was in Ontario (up by 14 from 2000), resulting in a 7% rise in the rate compared to 2000, but still lower than the previous ten-year average. The number of homicides reported in Alberta also rose (up by 11 from 2000) with a rate increase of nearly 17% between 2000 and 2001.

⁸ Homicide investigations in Port Coquitlam, British Columbia are ongoing and have yet to be reported by police to CCJS.

Table 2

Homicides by Province/Territory

| Province/Territory | 2001 ¹ | | 2000 ^{2r} | | Average 1991-2000 | |
|---------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|--------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| | Number | Rate ³ | Number | Rate ³ | Number | Rate ³ |
| Newfoundland and Labrador | 1 | 0.19 | 6 | 1.12 | 6 | 1.01 |
| Prince Edward Island | 2 | 1.44 | 3 | 2.17 | 1 | 0.89 |
| Nova Scotia | 9 | 0.95 | 15 | 1.59 | 19 | 2.06 |
| New Brunswick | 8 | 1.06 | 10 | 1.32 | 11 | 1.45 |
| Québec | 140 | 1.89 | 150 | 2.03 | 148 | 2.04 |
| Ontario | 170 | 1.43 | 156 | 1.34 | 189 | 1.72 |
| Manitoba | 34 | 2.96 | 30 | 2.62 | 32 | 2.86 |
| Saskatchewan | 27 | 2.66 | 26 | 2.54 | 26 | 2.53 |
| Alberta | 70 | 2.28 | 59 | 1.96 | 65 | 2.35 |
| British Columbia | 85 | 2.08 | 85 | 2.09 | 113 | 3.01 |
| Yukon | 1 | 3.35 | 2 | 6.54 | 2 | 5.19 |
| Northwest Territories | 4 | 9.79 | 1 | 2.44 | 4 | 8.76 |
| Nunavut | 3 | 10.65 | 3 | 10.94 | ... | ... |
| CANADA | 554 | 1.78 | 546 | 1.77 | 616 | 2.10 |

... figures not appropriate or not applicable

^r revised

¹ The following number of homicides were reported and included in 2001 but occurred in previous years: Québec - 3; Ontario - 7; Manitoba - 2; TOTAL - 12.

² The following number of homicides were reported and included in 2000 but occurred in previous years: Nova Scotia - 1; New Brunswick - 1; Ontario - 3; Saskatchewan - 1; TOTAL - 6.

³ Rates are calculated per 100,000 population.

Population estimates at July 1st, provided by Statistics Canada, Census and Demographic Statistics, Demography Division.

Source: Homicide Survey, Policing Services Program, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada, September 2002.

Territories: a homicide profile

Although the actual number of homicides in the territories each year is very low, the corresponding rate can be quite high due to the relatively small populations in these areas. As such, minor changes in the actual number of homicides can result in large fluctuations in the rate. Homicide rates in the Territories have usually been higher than those in the provinces (Tables 10 and 11).

On April 1st, 1999, Nunavut officially became a Canadian territory. The table below shows homicide statistics for the period 1992 to 2001 according to the current boundaries. Although populations in the three territories are lower than 100,000, rates are based on this number for comparability purposes with provincial figures.

Homicide Numbers and Rates¹ in Territories, 1992-2001

| Territory | 1992 | 1993 | 1994 | 1995 | 1996 | 1997 | 1998 | 1999 | 2000 | 2001 |
|------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|------|------|-------|------|-------|-------|
| number | | | | | | | | | | |
| Nunavut | 2 | 3 | 3 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 4 | 2 | 3 | 3 |
| NWT (excludes Nunavut) | 11 | 4 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 4 |
| Yukon | 2 | 0 | 3 | 4 | 0 | 1 | 3 | 1 | 2 | 1 |
| rate | | | | | | | | | | |
| Nunavut | 8.71 | 12.68 | 12.25 | 3.99 | 7.77 | 3.85 | 15.14 | 7.45 | 10.94 | 10.65 |
| NWT (excludes Nunavut) | 27.89 | 10.03 | 2.46 | 4.82 | 4.78 | 4.79 | 2.44 | 2.44 | 2.44 | 9.79 |
| Yukon | 6.61 | 0.00 | 9.98 | 12.95 | 0.00 | 3.10 | 9.52 | 3.22 | 6.54 | 3.35 |

Note: Rates for 1997-2000 have been revised.

¹ Rates per 100,000 population.

Source: Homicide Survey, Policing Services Program, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada, September 2002.

Homicide is not only an urban phenomenon

Crime, particularly homicide, is often considered to be an urban phenomenon. In 2001, however, the homicide rate for areas of less than 100,000 population was 1.95, higher than the rate for Canada's census metropolitan areas (CMAs) as a whole (1.69). Historical data show that the homicide rate for non-CMA areas has typically been similar to, or lower than, the rate for CMAs.

Table 3 divides the CMAs into three population categories. The first category includes the largest CMAs, with populations of 500,000 and over. Historically, these CMAs have tended to show the highest homicide rates. This trend held true in 2001, with the nine CMAs having a combined rate of 1.83. Winnipeg reported the highest rate (2.77), followed by Edmonton (2.61), Montreal (2.22) and Vancouver (2.12). Ottawa, with only 3 homicides in 2001, reported its lowest rate (0.36) since 1984, followed by Québec with 5 homicides (0.72). Toronto, Canada's largest metropolitan area, recorded a rate (1.60) that was below the national rate and its previous 10-year average.

Table 3

Homicides by Census Metropolitan Area

| Census Metropolitan Area | 2001 ¹ | | | 2000 ² | | | Average 1991-2000 ³ | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------|------------|-------------------|-------------------|------------|-------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------|
| | Population | Number | Rate ⁴ | Population | Number | Rate ⁴ | Number | Rate ⁴ |
| 500,000+ population | | | | | | | | |
| Toronto | 4,881,392 | 78 | 1.60 | 4,763,232 | 81 | 1.70 | 80 | 1.84 |
| Montreal | 3,511,845 | 78 | 2.22 | 3,474,915 | 75 | 2.16 | 83 | 2.45 |
| Vancouver | 2,078,824 | 44 | 2.12 | 2,058,736 | 42 | 2.04 | 55 | 2.95 |
| Calgary | 971,532 | 15 | 1.54 | 947,344 | 16 | 1.69 | 17 | 2.00 |
| Edmonton | 956,805 | 25 | 2.61 | 941,788 | 19 | 2.02 | 24 | 2.66 |
| Ottawa ⁵ | 844,969 | 3 | 0.36 | 828,557 | 8 | 0.97 | 12 | 1.53 |
| Québec | 693,064 | 5 | 0.72 | 690,521 | 12 | 1.74 | 11 | 1.57 |
| Winnipeg | 684,778 | 19 | 2.77 | 682,090 | 17 | 2.49 | 18 | 2.64 |
| Hamilton | 680,561 | 13 | 1.91 | 672,173 | 10 | 1.49 | 12 | 1.85 |
| Total | 15,303,770 | 280 | 1.83 | 15,059,356 | 280 | 1.86 | 311 | 2.20 |
| 250,000 - 499,999 population | | | | | | | | |
| Kitchener | 431,696 | 6 | 1.39 | 423,200 | 8 | 1.89 | 6 | 1.49 |
| St. Catharines-Niagara | 393,083 | 5 | 1.27 | 390,874 | 4 | 1.02 | 7 | 1.70 |
| London | 426,307 | 6 | 1.41 | 422,131 | 2 | 0.47 | 5 | 1.18 |
| Halifax | 359,186 | 3 | 0.84 | 355,874 | 8 | 2.25 | 8 | 2.44 |
| Victoria | 318,796 | 4 | 1.25 | 317,145 | 7 | 2.21 | 6 | 2.06 |
| Windsor | 313,838 | 3 | 0.96 | 306,795 | 6 | 1.96 | 7 | 2.38 |
| Oshawa | 305,308 | 1 | 0.33 | 298,893 | 2 | 0.67 | 4 | 1.35 |
| Hull ⁶ | 261,981 | 2 | 0.76 | 257,514 | 2 | 0.78 | 4 | 1.41 |
| Total | 2,810,195 | 30 | 1.07 | 2,772,426 | 39 | 1.41 | 46 | 1.73 |
| 100,000 - 249,999 population | | | | | | | | |
| Saskatoon | 230,517 | 1 | 0.43 | 230,979 | 7 | 3.03 | 6 | 2.82 |
| Regina | 198,125 | 7 | 3.53 | 199,276 | 7 | 3.51 | 5 | 2.42 |
| St. John's | 176,163 | 1 | 0.57 | 175,817 | 3 | 1.71 | 3 | 1.42 |
| Sudbury | 156,714 | 5 | 3.19 | 158,126 | 1 | 0.63 | 4 | 2.27 |
| Sherbrooke | 154,865 | 0 | 0.00 | 153,623 | 4 | 2.60 | 2 | 1.34 |
| Chicoutimi-Jonquière | 158,740 | 1 | 0.63 | 160,486 | 4 | 2.49 | 1 | 0.73 |
| Saint John | 128,058 | 1 | 0.78 | 127,730 | 1 | 0.78 | 2 | 1.87 |
| Trois-Rivières | 141,535 | 1 | 0.71 | 141,644 | 4 | 2.82 | 2 | 1.41 |
| Thunder Bay | 124,581 | 3 | 2.41 | 125,833 | 1 | 0.79 | 4 | 2.88 |
| Total | 1,469,298 | 20 | 1.36 | 1,473,514 | 32 | 2.17 | 29 | 1.94 |
| CMA TOTALS | 19,583,263 | 330 | 1.69 | 19,305,296 | 351 | 1.82 | 386 | 2.11 |
| < 100,000 population | 11,498,624 | 224 | 1.95 | 11,464,373 | 195 | 1.70 | 230 | 2.06 |
| CANADA | 31,081,887 | 554 | 1.78 | 30,769,669 | 546 | 1.77 | 616 | 2.09 |

¹ revised

² The following number of homicides were reported and included in 2001 but occurred in previous years: Québec - 1; Trois-Rivières - 1; Toronto - 1; Hamilton - 2; Winnipeg - 1; Areas < 100,000 6; TOTAL - 12.

³ The following number of homicides were reported and included in 2000 but occurred in previous years: St. John - 1; Toronto - 1; Hamilton - 1; St. Catharines-Niagara - 1; Areas < 100,000 2; TOTAL - 6.

⁴ The CMA boundaries change at each census as the population increases and the commuting patterns expand from the urban core. Data presented in this CMA table represent more than one census period. Data from 1991 to 1995 are based on 1991 census boundaries. Data from 1996 to the most current year are based on 1996 census boundaries.

⁵ Rates are calculated per 100,000 population.

⁶ Population estimates at July 1st, provided by Statistics Canada, Census and Demographic Statistics, Demography Division.

⁷ Ottawa refers to the Ontario part of the Ottawa-Hull CMA.

⁸ Hull refers to the Quebec part of the Ottawa-Hull CMA.

Source: Homicide Survey, Policing Services Program, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada, September 2002.

Census Metropolitan Areas (CMAs) are large urban cores (population of 100,000 and over) together with adjacent urban and rural areas which have a high degree of economic and social integration. The areas that police forces serve may differ in their mix of urban/suburban populations, making the comparability of crime rates among these forces difficult. This lack of comparability is addressed by analyzing crime rates by CMA. Usually, more than one police force is responsible for enforcing the law within the boundaries of a CMA.

The second CMA category is comprised of the midsize CMAs with populations of 250,000 to 499,999. For the year 2001, the eight mid-sized CMAs had the lowest combined rate (1.07). London reported the highest homicide rate (1.41), followed closely by Kitchener (1.39), while Oshawa, with only one homicide, reported the lowest rate (0.33). The rate in Halifax (0.84) was at its lowest point since 1983 and Victoria (1.25) reported its lowest rate since 1991.

The third CMA category, comprised of the nine smallest metropolitan areas with populations from 100,000 to 249,999, reported a combined rate of 1.36. Regina (3.53) reported the highest rate followed by Sudbury (3.19) and Thunder Bay (2.41). All other CMAs in this group reported rates below 1.00 per 100,000 population. The lowest rates were reported in Sherbrooke, which had zero homicides, followed by Saskatoon (0.43), which reported its lowest rate since 1981 when CMA data were first tabulated. It should be noted that because of their small populations, even minor fluctuations in the number of homicides for the cities in this CMA group can greatly affect their homicide rates.

CHARACTERISTICS OF HOMICIDE INCIDENTS

Half of all homicides are first degree murders

With the abolition of capital punishment in 1976 (Bill C-105), murder was categorized into first and second-degree. In 2001, half (50%) of all homicides were classified by police as first degree murder, 41% as second degree murder, 8% as manslaughter, and less than 1% (3 cases) as infanticide.⁹

The classification of homicide offences in this report is based upon initial police investigation. In the transition period from initial police investigation of the accused to final court disposition, the legal classification of an incident may change; however, this change may not be reflected in this report.

Most multiple-victim homicides are family-related

Multiple-victim homicides tend to receive more attention from the media and public than single-victim homicides. In 2001, the vast majority (94%) of the 515 homicide incidents involved a single victim, while the remaining 6% (31) were multiple-victim incidents. The number of multiple-victim incidents was up by 7 from 2000 but identical to the previous ten-year average. There were 26 incidents involving two victims, three incidents with three victims, one incident with four victims and one incident with five victims, culminating in a total of 70 victims. Among those multiple-victim incidents where an accused was identified (24 of the 31 incidents), most (63%) involved the killing of at least one family member (i.e., an immediate or extended family member related by blood, marriage or

adoption). The majority of both victims (63%) and accused persons (88%) involved in multiple-victim homicides were male. A disproportionate number of multiple-victim homicides occurred in the province of Québec in 2001 (42% compared to 24% of total incidents).

Most murder-suicides are family-related

In 2001, 41 incidents (representing 8% of all homicide incidents) involving 54 victims were murder-suicides, up by 12 incidents from the previous year but close to the average number of 42 incidents over the past decade. All but two of the accused who committed suicide at the time of the incident in 2001 were male, and all but one incident involved a lone accused.

The vast majority of murder-suicide incidents in 2001 (85% or 35 incidents) involved the killing of at least one family member (i.e., an immediate or extended family member related by blood, marriage or adoption). Of those that were family-related, 83% (29 incidents) involved a man killing one or more family members (either his spouse and/or children). Four incidents involved a son killing his parent(s); one incident involved a mother killing her child; and, one incident involved both a mother and father killing their child.

The six murder-suicide incidents that were non-family related occurred as a result of a dispute or an angry or jealous episode between lovers, neighbours or friends/acquaintances.

It is important to point out that there is some overlap between incidents of murder-suicide and those that involve multiple victims. In 2001, there were nine multiple-victim homicides where the accused person subsequently committed suicide.

Gang-related homicides decline in 2001 but remain much higher than the early 1990s

In recent years, investigations by the police and the justice community on the involvement of organized criminal groups in crime (e.g. homicides perpetrated by motorcycle gang members fighting over control of the drug market) have gained widespread attention by the media and the public. Between 1991 and 1997, police reported an average of 22 gang-related homicides¹⁰ each year. Between 1998 and 2001, the number of such homicides almost tripled, to an average of 58 victims each year (Table 4). Although gang-related murders decreased from 72 in 2000 to 62 in 2001, they still accounted for one out of every nine homicide victims. Since 1991, Québec has accounted for half to two-thirds of the national volume of gang-related incidents; however, in 2001, this proportion decreased to just over one-third (37%) due to a rise in the number of incidents in Ontario (Table 5).

In 2001, two-thirds (67%) of all gang-related incidents involved drug trafficking or the settling of accounts (e.g. debts owing or "turf wars"). The remainder primarily involved disputes or vengeful acts between gang members or rivals. Firearms were used as the method of homicide in about three-quarters (74%) of all gang killings.

⁹ See Glossary of Terms for definitions of criminal homicide.

¹⁰ Gang-related homicides include those that are reported by police to have occurred as a result of gang activities and/or gang membership (e.g. motorcycle gangs, street gangs, youth gangs or organized crime families/groups).

Table 4

| Gang-related Homicides, by Type, Canada, 1991-2001 | | | | | | |
|---|------------------------|----------------------|---------------|---------------------------|-------------------------|---|
| Year | Gang-related incidents | | | | Total number of victims | Gang-related incidents as a % of all homicide incidents |
| | Drug-related | Settling of accounts | Other motives | Total number of incidents | | |
| | number | | | | | |
| 1991 | 9 | 4 | 7 | 20 | 22 | 2.8 |
| 1992 | 9 | 6 | 4 | 19 | 19 | 2.8 |
| 1993 | 8 | 2 | 2 | 12 | 13 | 2.0 |
| 1994 | 15 | 6 | 2 | 23 | 24 | 4.1 |
| 1995 | 8 | 2 | 9 | 19 | 21 | 3.4 |
| 1996 | 21 | 3 | 2 | 26 | 29 | 4.5 |
| 1997 ^r | 8 | 7 | 13 | 28 | 29 | 5.2 |
| 1998 ^r | 18 | 17 | 13 | 48 | 51 | 9.1 |
| 1999 ^r | 19 | 13 | 12 | 44 | 45 | 8.7 |
| 2000 ^r | 34 | 22 | 9 | 65 | 72 | 12.6 |
| 2001 | 24 | 16 | 20 | 60 | 62 | 11.7 |
| Average 1991-1997 | 11 | 4 | 6 | 21 | 22 | 3.6 |
| Average 1998-2001 | 24 | 17 | 14 | 54 | 58 | 10.5 |

^r revised

Source: Homicide Survey, Policing Services Program, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada, September 2002.

Table 5

| Gang-related Incidents, by Region, 1991-2001 | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Region | Year | | | | | | | | | | |
| | 1991 | 1992 | 1993 | 1994 | 1995 | 1996 | 1997 | 1998 | 1999 | 2000 | 2001 |
| | number | | | | | | | | | | |
| Atlantic | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 3 | 0 |
| Québec | 12 | 10 | 7 | 13 | 11 | 13 | 16 | 29 | 30 | 35 | 22 |
| Ontario | 4 | 3 | 3 | 4 | 0 | 3 | 2 | 5 | 5 | 9 | 18 |
| Prairies | 2 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 4 | 4 | 3 | 6 | 5 | 9 | 9 |
| British Columbia | 2 | 6 | 1 | 4 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 4 | 9 | 11 |
| Territories | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| CANADA | 20 | 19 | 12 | 23 | 19 | 26 | 28 | 48 | 44 | 65 | 60 |

^r revised

Source: Homicide Survey, Policing Services Program, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada, September 2002.

Drug-related homicides remain stable

Many homicides are motivated by drugs or drug dealing, not just gang-related homicides. Excluding gang-related incidents in 2001, 45 incidents (10%) were related to the illegal drug business, about the same number as the previous year and similar to the average of 47 between 1991 and 2000. Of the 50 victims of drug-related (non-gang-related) homicides in 2001, 27 were reported by the police to be drug dealers.

Three in four homicide incidents solved by police

During 2001, the police solved 77% of the 515 reported homicide incidents through the identification of at least one accused. Over the past ten years, this proportion has fluctuated between 75% and 85%. Since the process of solving a homicide can sometimes be complex and time-consuming, an incident may not be solved until after the year in which it was initially recorded. Therefore, these data for 2001 may underestimate final police clearance rates.

Of those homicide incidents cleared by police in 2001, 89% were cleared by a charge being laid or recommended and 10% by the accused having committed suicide immediately following the offence. The remaining 1% (3 cases) were cleared for the following reasons: the police exercised departmental discretion due to the unique circumstances of the incident; the Crown chose not to proceed due to the mental condition of the accused; and, the accused person died in police custody.

Six in ten homicides occur in residences

Of the 510 homicide incidents with a known location (5 were unknown) in 2001, six in ten (59%) took place in a private residence, three-quarters (73%) of which were in a residence occupied by the victim (either solely or jointly with the accused). Not surprisingly, the vast majority (89%) of family-related homicides, including spousal homicides, occurred in a private residence, most commonly the victim and offender's joint home.

The remaining locations were distributed as follows: 30% in an open area (e.g., a parking lot, street or field); 7% in a commercial area (e.g., bar, restaurant, convenience store); 3% in a private vehicle or taxi; and the remaining 1% (7 incidents) in the following public institutions: a correctional facility, a community group home/halfway house, a public transportation facility, a hospital and a university.

FIREARMS

Firearms continue to be used in about one-third of all homicides

Over the past 20 years, firearms have typically been used in about one-third of all homicides. While this trend continued in 2001 (accounting for 31% of all homicides), stabbings comprised an equal amount (31%) of all killings. Beatings were the cause of death among 22% of victims, strangulation/suffocation 9%, and shaking (Shaken Baby Syndrome), fire (burns/suffocation), poisoning and homicides involving vehicles each accounted for 1% of all homicides (Table 6, Figure 3).

Homicides account for a relatively small portion of all firearm-related deaths. Of the 1,006 deaths in Canada involving firearms in 1999 (the latest year for which figures are available), the largest proportion of these deaths were due to suicide (80%), followed by homicide (15%), and accidents (4%).¹¹

¹¹ Health Statistics Division (2002). Causes of Death, 1999. Catalogue 84-208-XPB, Ottawa: Statistics Canada.

Table 6

Homicides by Cause of Death, Canada, 1991-2001

| Year | Shooting | | Stabbing | | Beating | | Strangulation/ Suffocation | | Shaken Baby Syndrome | | Fire (smoke inhalation, burns) | |
|-------------------|-----------|---------|----------|---------|--------------------|---------|-------------------------------|---------|-------------------------|---------|-----------------------------------|---------|
| | Number | Percent | Number | Percent | Number | Percent | Number | Percent | Number | Percent | Number | Percent |
| 1991 | 271 | 35.9 | 224 | 29.7 | 142 | 18.8 | 77 | 10.2 | ... | ... | 20 | 2.7 |
| 1992 | 247 | 33.7 | 211 | 28.8 | 151 | 20.6 | 61 | 8.3 | ... | ... | 35 | 4.8 |
| 1993 | 195 | 31.1 | 191 | 30.5 | 116 | 18.5 | 77 | 12.3 | ... | ... | 17 | 2.7 |
| 1994 | 196 | 32.9 | 154 | 25.8 | 106 | 17.8 | 84 | 14.1 | ... | ... | 17 | 2.9 |
| 1995 | 176 | 29.9 | 183 | 31.1 | 121 | 20.6 | 70 | 11.9 | ... | ... | 20 | 3.4 |
| 1996 | 212 | 33.4 | 195 | 30.7 | 132 | 20.8 | 59 | 9.3 | ... | ... | 8 | 1.3 |
| 1997 | 193 | 32.9 | 168 | 28.7 | 115 | 19.6 | 53 | 9.0 | 6 | 1.0 | 30 | 5.1 |
| 1998 | 151 | 27.1 | 186 | 33.3 | 125 | 22.4 | 61 | 10.9 | 6 | 1.1 | 12 | 2.2 |
| 1999 | 165 | 30.7 | 143 | 26.6 | 125 | 23.2 | 55 | 10.2 | 7 | 1.3 | 11 | 2.0 |
| 2000 ^r | 184 | 33.7 | 149 | 27.3 | 128 | 23.4 | 39 | 7.1 | 13 | 2.4 | 4 | 0.7 |
| 2001 | 171 | 30.9 | 171 | 30.9 | 123 | 22.2 | 47 | 8.5 | 8 | 1.4 | 8 | 1.4 |
| | Poisoning | | Vehicle | | Other ¹ | | Unknown | | Total | | | |
| | Number | Percent | Number | Percent | Number | Percent | Number | Percent | Number | Percent | | |
| 1991 | 6 | 0.8 | ... | ... | 8 | 1.1 | 6 | 0.8 | 754 | 100.0 | | |
| 1992 | 9 | 1.2 | ... | ... | 12 | 1.6 | 6 | 0.8 | 732 | 100.0 | | |
| 1993 | 6 | 1.0 | ... | ... | 21 | 3.3 | 4 | 0.6 | 627 | 100.0 | | |
| 1994 | 11 | 1.8 | ... | ... | 22 | 3.7 | 6 | 1.0 | 596 | 100.0 | | |
| 1995 | 6 | 1.0 | ... | ... | 6 | 1.0 | 6 | 1.0 | 588 | 100.0 | | |
| 1996 | 6 | 0.9 | ... | ... | 12 | 1.9 | 11 | 1.7 | 635 | 100.0 | | |
| 1997 | 8 | 1.4 | 6 | 1.0 | 2 | 0.3 | 5 | 0.9 | 586 | 100.0 | | |
| 1998 | 6 | 1.1 | 3 | 0.5 | 2 | 0.4 | 6 | 1.1 | 558 | 100.0 | | |
| 1999 | 5 | 0.9 | 13 | 2.4 | 6 | 1.1 | 8 | 1.5 | 538 | 100.0 | | |
| 2000 ^r | 4 | 0.7 | 14 | 2.6 | 4 | 0.7 | 7 | 1.3 | 546 | 100.0 | | |
| 2001 | 8 | 1.4 | 5 | 0.9 | 5 | 0.9 | 8 | 1.4 | 554 | 100.0 | | |

... figures not applicable or not appropriate

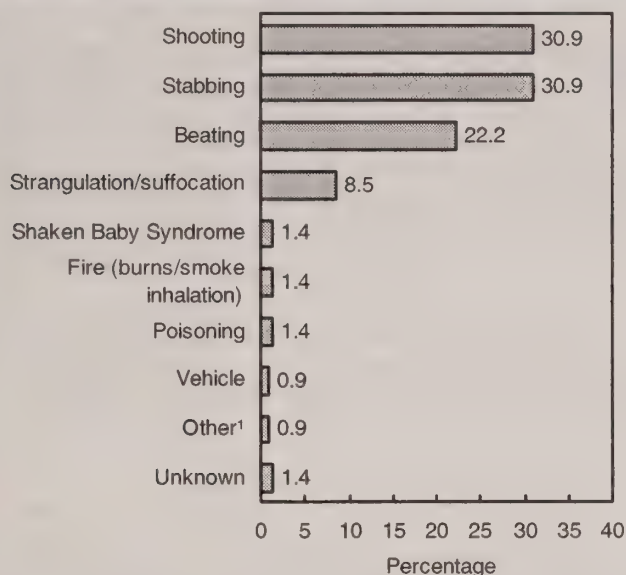
^r revised

¹ Other includes heart attacks, exposure / hypothermia and, prior to 1997, Shaken Baby Syndrome and deaths caused by vehicles.

Source: Homicide Survey, Policing Services Program, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada, September 2002.

Figure 3

Homicide Causes of Death, Canada, 2001



¹ Other includes exposure, hypothermia and heart attack.

Source: Homicide Survey, Policing Services Program, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada, September 2002.

Among the 171 shootings in 2001, handguns were the most common type of firearm used to kill. There were 110 (64%) homicides with a handgun, 46 (27%) with a rifle/shotgun, 7 (4%) with a sawed-off rifle/shotgun, 3 (2%) with a fully-automatic firearm, and 5 (3%) with other or unknown types of firearms (Table 7). Prior to 1990, handguns were used in about 3 in 10 firearm-related homicides. Between 1991 and 1998, the proportion rose to about half of all firearm-related homicides. Since then the proportion has steadily risen, with handguns now accounting for almost two-thirds of all firearm-related homicides. This rise has been driven by a steady decline in the number of rifle/shotguns (including sawed-off), from nearly half of all firearm-related homicides in 1991 to less than one-third in 2001 (Figure 4).

Three in four recovered handguns not registered

In 1997, the Homicide Survey began collecting the following supplementary information on firearms: firearm registration, ownership, possession of a valid FAC or Firearms Licence by the accused, firearm status, and classification of the firearm (whether restricted or prohibited). Analysis of these data focus on handguns used in homicides, as police have been required for some time to record this information as part of their investigations. However, it is important to note that a substantial portion of this information was either unknown to police at the time of the investigation, or the handgun was never recovered and the information is therefore unavailable. This analysis refers to cases where firearm registration, ownership and licensing information were known.

Table 7

Homicides Involving Firearms, Canada, 1991-2001

| Year | Firearm | | | | | | | | | | Total | |
|-------------------|---------|------------------------|---------------|------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|----------------|------------------------|-------|--|
| | Handgun | | Rifle/Shotgun | | Fully automatic firearm | | Sawed-off rifle/shotgun | | Other firearms | | | |
| | # | % of firearm homicides | # | % of firearm homicides | # | % of firearm homicides | # | % of firearm homicides | # | % of firearm homicides | # | Homicides involving firearms as a % of total homicides |
| 1991 | 135 | 49.8 | 103 | 38.0 | 6 | 2.2 | 25 | 9.2 | 2 | 0.7 | 271 | 35.9 |
| 1992 ^r | 129 | 52.2 | 91 | 36.8 | 12 | 4.9 | 15 | 6.1 | 0 | 0.0 | 247 | 33.7 |
| 1993 ^r | 91 | 46.7 | 75 | 38.5 | 11 | 5.6 | 17 | 8.7 | 1 | 0.5 | 195 | 31.1 |
| 1994 | 90 | 45.9 | 66 | 33.7 | 14 | 7.1 | 26 | 13.3 | 0 | 0.0 | 196 | 32.9 |
| 1995 ^r | 95 | 54.0 | 64 | 36.4 | 2 | 1.1 | 15 | 8.5 | 0 | 0.0 | 176 | 29.9 |
| 1996 | 107 | 50.5 | 81 | 38.2 | 8 | 3.8 | 16 | 7.5 | 0 | 0.0 | 212 | 33.4 |
| 1997 | 99 | 51.3 | 77 | 39.9 | 2 | 1.0 | 10 | 5.2 | 5 | 2.6 | 193 | 32.9 |
| 1998 | 70 | 46.4 | 51 | 33.8 | 12 | 7.9 | 14 | 9.3 | 4 | 2.6 | 151 | 27.1 |
| 1999 | 89 | 53.9 | 58 | 35.2 | 6 | 3.6 | 6 | 3.6 | 6 | 3.6 | 165 | 30.7 |
| 2000 ^r | 108 | 58.7 | 57 | 31.0 | 4 | 2.2 | 11 | 6.0 | 4 | 2.2 | 184 | 33.7 |
| 2001 | 110 | 64.3 | 46 | 26.9 | 3 | 1.8 | 7 | 4.1 | 5 | 2.9 | 171 | 30.9 |
| Average 1991-2000 | 101 | 50.9 | 72 | 36.1 | 8 | 4.0 | 16 | 7.7 | 2 | 1.2 | 199 | 32.1 |

... figures not applicable or not appropriate
^r revised

Source: Homicide Survey, Policing Services Program, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada, September 2002.

Figure 4



Note: See Firearm Legislation textbox for details of Bills.

¹ Includes sawed-off rifles/shotguns.

Source: Homicide Survey, Policing Services Program, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada, September 2002.

Firearm Legislation

In **1969**, Parliament amended the *Criminal Code* (Bill C-150), which for the first time made it illegal to provide firearms to persons of "unsound mind" or criminals under prohibition orders. The legislation also expanded the definition of a "firearm," which, prior to 1969, only included handguns and automatic firearms, and introduced non-restricted, restricted, and prohibited firearm categories.

In **1977**, Parliament again amended the *Criminal Code* (Bill C-51), requiring individuals to obtain a Firearms Acquisition Certificate (FAC). The legislation also introduced a variety of provisions including regulations on safe storage and display of firearms for businesses and bona-fide gun collectors, and mandatory minimum sentences to deter the criminal use of firearms.

In **1991**, Parliament strengthened the screening provisions for FAC applicants by introducing new legislation (Bill C-17). A multi-page form with a variety of questions concerning the applicant's personal and criminal history, personal references, picture, and a mandatory 28-day waiting period for approved FAC applicants was incorporated.

In **1995**, Parliament passed Bill C-68 which created strict new penalties for the trafficking and smuggling of firearms, and tougher mandatory minimum sentences for 10 serious offences involving firearms. All firearm owners and users are now required to obtain a firearm licence, and all firearms will have to be registered by January 2003 (including non-restricted rifles and shotguns).

Figure 4 shows the firearm-related homicide rate between 1961 and 2001, indicating where legislative changes have been enacted. The information is not intended to establish a definitive cause-and-effect relationship between gun-control legislation and crime rates.

Between 1997 and 2001, there were 476 homicides committed with handguns. Among the 30% (143) of homicides where the handgun was recovered, about three-quarters (74%) of the handguns were not registered. Where ownership of the handgun could be determined by police (113 cases), it was reported that the accused owned the handgun in almost half (47%) of these homicides, compared to 4% owned by the victim. Someone other than the accused or victim owned the handgun in the remaining 50% of homicides. In addition, about 4 in 5 (81%) accused persons did not possess a valid FAC or Firearms Licence.

ACCUSED-VICTIM RELATIONSHIP

The Homicide Survey collects data on the relationships between persons accused of homicide and their victims. Unless noted otherwise, these and other related distributions exclude "unsolved" homicide incidents where there was no accused identified (23% of all incidents in 2001).

The data collected through the Homicide Survey consistently indicate that homicides are far more likely to be committed by someone known to the victim than by a stranger. In 2001, persons known to the victim accounted for 87% of all solved homicides — 45% were committed by an acquaintance (i.e., non-family) of the victim and 43% by a family member

¹² Home Office. (1998). "Criminal Statistics England and Wales 1997". Research Development and Statistics Directorate, The Stationery Office, London.

¹³ Mouzos, J. (2000). "The Licensing and Registration Status of Firearms Used in Homicide". Trends and Issues in Crime and Criminal Justice, No. 151. Australian Institute of Criminology, Canberra.

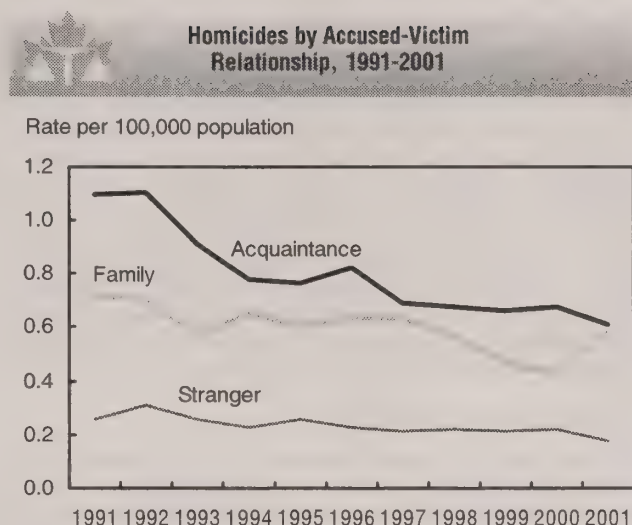
The available data suggest that most firearms used in handgun-related homicides were not registered and the accused were not licensed firearm users. Studies in other countries on firearm use in homicides have reached similar conclusions.^{12, 13}

(Table 8). Strangers killed the remaining 13% of victims. Of the 191 victims in acquaintance homicides, 90 were killed by a casual acquaintance, a further 28 were killed by a close friend, 12 by a current or ex-boyfriend/girlfriend, and 25 by someone with whom the victim had a criminal relationship (includes prostitutes, drug dealers and their clients).

The proportion of stranger homicides has remained relatively stable over the past ten years, ranging from 12% to 17% of all homicides (Figure 5). Six in ten victims who were killed by strangers in 2001 were murdered during the commission of another criminal offence, usually an assault or a robbery. Of the total number of solved homicides, male victims were about four times more likely to be killed by strangers (17%) than were female victims (4%).¹⁴

¹⁴ For more information on homicides committed by strangers, see Janhevich, D. (1998). "Violence Committed by Strangers". Juristat, Catalogue 85-002-XIE, Vol. 18, No. 9. Ottawa: Statistics Canada.

Figure 5



Source: Homicide Survey, Policing Services Program, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada, September 2002.

Table 8

Solved Homicides by Accused-Victim Relationship¹, Canada

| Relationship Type (Victims killed by:) | 2001 | | 2000 ¹ | | Average 1991-2000 | |
|---|-------------------|--------------|-------------------|--------------|-------------------|--------------|
| | Number of victims | Percent | Number of victims | Percent | Number of victims | Percent |
| Family Relationship | | | | | | |
| Spousal Relationship | | | | | | |
| Husband (legal and common-law) | 52 | 12.1 | 38 | 9.3 | 49 | 9.9 |
| Husband (separated and divorced) | 17 | 4.0 | 14 | 3.4 | 18 | 3.7 |
| Wife (legal and common-law) | 13 | 3.0 | 13 | 3.2 | 16 | 3.3 |
| Wife (separated and divorced) | 3 | 0.7 | 3 | 0.7 | 2 | 0.4 |
| (Ex) Same sex spouse ² | 1 | 0.2 | 0 | 0.0 | ... | ... |
| Total Spousal | 86 | 20.0 | 68 | 16.7 | 85 | 17.4 |
| Non-Spousal Relationship | | | | | | |
| Father | 26 | 6.1 | 21 | 5.1 | 27 | 5.4 |
| Mother | 17 | 4.0 | 10 | 2.5 | 16 | 3.3 |
| Child | 25 | 5.8 | 18 | 4.4 | 19 | 3.9 |
| Sibling | 8 | 1.9 | 6 | 1.5 | 10 | 2.1 |
| Other family relation | 21 | 4.9 | 8 | 2.0 | 18 | 3.7 |
| Total Non-Spousal | 97 | 22.6 | 63 | 15.4 | 90 | 18.5 |
| Total Family | 183 | 42.7 | 131 | 32.1 | 175 | 35.8 |
| Acquaintance | | | | | | |
| (Ex) Boyfriend/girlfriend/other intimate | 12 | 2.8 | 23 | 5.6 | 24 | 5.0 |
| Close friend | 28 | 6.5 | 31 | 7.6 | 31 | 6.3 |
| Authority figure ² | 1 | 0.2 | 5 | 1.2 | ... | ... |
| Business associate (legal) | 11 | 2.6 | 7 | 1.7 | 14 | 2.9 |
| Criminal relationships ³ | 25 | 5.8 | 27 | 6.6 | 36 | 7.3 |
| Neighbour | 24 | 5.6 | 10 | 2.5 | 21 | 4.4 |
| Casual acquaintance | 90 | 21.0 | 105 | 25.7 | 112 | 22.9 |
| Total Acquaintance | 191 | 44.5 | 208 | 51.0 | 240 | 49.0 |
| Stranger | 54 | 12.6 | 68 | 16.7 | 71 | 14.4 |
| Unknown relationship | 1 | 0.2 | 1 | 0.2 | 5 | 0.9 |
| TOTAL SOLVED HOMICIDES | 429 | 100.0 | 408 | 100.0 | 489 | 100.0 |

... figures not appropriate or not applicable

¹ revised

² Includes only those homicides in which there were known accused. If there were more than one accused, only the closest relationship to the victim was recorded.

³ Authority figure and same sex spouse were added to the survey in 1997; therefore, ten-year average cannot be calculated.

⁴ Criminal relationships include prostitutes, drug dealers and their clients.

Source: Homicide Survey, Policing Services Program, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada, September 2002.

Family homicides rise

Family homicides involve spouses, parents, children, siblings or other members related either by blood, marriage or adoption. In recent years, data have shown family homicides to be declining. However, this trend did not continue in 2001. Of solved cases, there were 183 victims of family homicide in 2001, 52 more than the year before and 8 more than the previous ten-year average. In fact, between 2000 and 2001, every category of family member accused of homicide either stayed the same or rose, with husbands (either legal or common-law) and other family members accounting for the largest increases (up by 14 and 13 victims, respectively). Substantial increases were also evident in the number of children killed by a parent (up by 12 victims) and parents killed by their children (up by 7 victims)¹⁵ (Table 8).

Spousal homicides rise

Spousal homicides include persons in legal marriages, those separated or divorced from such unions and those in common-law relationships (including same sex spouse). Notwithstanding annual fluctuations, between 1974 and 2000 spousal homicide rates for both men and women generally declined. Several societal changes have been suggested to explain the decline including the changing nature of intimate relationships; increasing gender equality; criminal and civil legislative changes; policy and procedural changes (such as specialized domestic violence courts); training of criminal justice personnel; and increasing availability of resources for victims of domestic violence.¹⁶ However, in 2001 the number of spousal homicides rose (Figure 6), accounting for one out of every five solved homicides and almost half (47%) of all family homicides (Table 8). In 2001, 86 persons were killed by a spouse, up by 18 victims from 2000 but similar to the previous ten-year average. The rise in the number of spousal homicides over the past year can largely be attributed to the increase in homicides committed by legally married husbands. Ontario reported the greatest increase in the number of spousal homicides – 16 more in 2001 than in 2000.

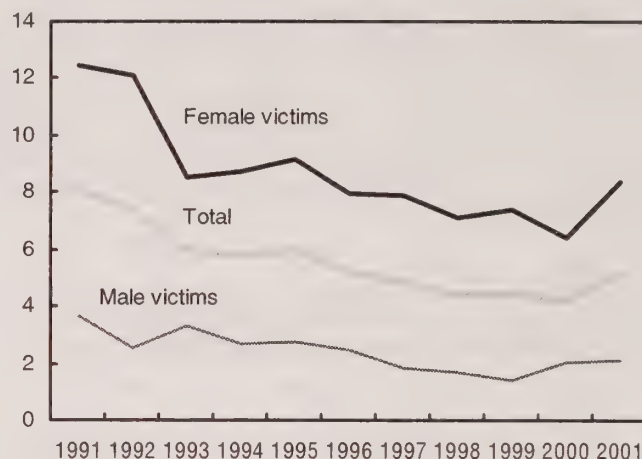
The methods used to commit spousal homicide differed between men and women. Out of the 17 spousal homicides perpetrated against men in 2001, 16 were the result of stabbing and one from shooting. On the other hand, female victims were killed most commonly by stabbing (29%), shooting (26%), beating (19%) and strangulation (17%). Police reported a history of domestic violence in about half (53%) of all spousal homicides. This was more frequently the case when the victim was male (87%), compared to 45% for female victims.

Although the number of spousal homicides increased in 2001, homicides among other types of intimate relationships (current/ex-boyfriend or girlfriend, extra marital or estranged lover or same sex relationship) declined. There were 12 homicides committed by an intimate non-spousal partner in 2001, 11 fewer than in 2000 and half the average number of victims for the previous ten-year period. Six victims were female and six were male. Among all solved homicides, 52% of all female victims and 8% of all male victims in 2001 were killed by a person with whom they had an intimate relationship at one point in time, either through marriage or dating.

Figure 6

Spousal Homicide Rate, 1991-2001

Rate per 1,000,000 spouses



Source: Homicide Survey, Policing Services Program, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada, September 2002.

Three-quarters of murdered children killed by a parent

There were 39 children (under the age of 12) murdered in 2001, 24% fewer than the average of 51 for the 1991 to 2000 period. More than three-quarters of these children were killed by their parents – there were 25 parent-child homicide incidents involving 30 child victims (Table 9). Six children were killed by other family members or family friends, most of whom were taking care of the child at the time of the incident. Three children were killed by a stranger.

Taking into account that some of these incidents involve multiple-accused and multiple-victims, the actual number of accused parents in 2001 were 14 fathers (12 fathers and 2 step-fathers) and 12 mothers (11 mothers and 1 step-mother).

The number of infants under one year of age who were killed decreased from 20 in 2000 to 12 in 2001, dropping below the previous ten-year average of 18. However, compared to other children under 12 years old, infants under one year of age were still at the highest risk of being a victim of homicide with a rate of about 4 victims for every 100,000 infants under one year. In 2001, parents were responsible for all of the infant homicides – 8 mothers and 4 fathers – most commonly by shaking (Shaken Baby Syndrome) and beating.

¹⁵ For more information on family homicide, see Trainor, C. (2002). "Family Violence in Canada: A Statistical Profile 2001". Catalogue 85-224-XPE, Ottawa: Statistics Canada.

¹⁶ Pottier-Bunge, V. (2002). "National Trends in Intimate Partner Homicides, 1974-2000". Juristat, Catalogue 85-002-XPE, Vol. 22, no. 5. Ottawa: Statistics Canada.

Table 9

Children (<12 years) Killed by Parents, Canada, 1991-2001

| Year | Number of incidents | Number of victims | Parent-child homicides as a % of all homicide incidents | Actual Number of Accused in Parent-Child Homicides | | | | Ratio of accused (step) fathers to (step) mothers |
|-------------------|---------------------|-------------------|---|--|-------------|--------|-------------|---|
| | | | | Father | Step-Father | Mother | Step-Mother | |
| 1991 ^r | 24 | 29 | 3.4 | 8 | 1 | 13 | 2 | 0.6 |
| 1992 | 28 | 32 | 4.2 | 10 | 1 | 17 | 0 | 0.6 |
| 1993 | 32 | 32 | 5.4 | 13 | 4 | 15 | 0 | 1.1 |
| 1994 | 40 | 43 | 7.2 | 20 | 4 | 16 | 0 | 1.5 |
| 1995 | 32 | 36 | 5.7 | 18 | 2 | 11 | 1 | 1.7 |
| 1996 | 37 | 41 | 6.4 | 19 | 6 | 12 | 0 | 2.1 |
| 1997 | 45 | 53 | 8.4 | 18 | 3 | 23 | 1 | 0.9 |
| 1998 | 41 | 47 | 7.7 | 22 | 3 | 15 | 1 | 1.6 |
| 1999 | 23 | 26 | 4.6 | 13 | 3 | 7 | 0 | 2.3 |
| 2000 ^r | 24 | 27 | 4.7 | 11 | 4 | 9 | 0 | 1.7 |
| 2001 | 25 | 30 | 4.9 | 12 | 2 | 11 | 1 | 1.2 |
| Average 1991-2000 | 32 | 36 | 5.7 | 15 | 3 | 14 | 1 | 1.4 |

^r revised

Source: Homicide Survey, Policing Services Program, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada, September 2002.

It is important to note that the figure for infant homicides may be under-reported since some claims of accidental deaths such as falls or "sudden infant deaths" could actually be due to child abuse. Since 1995, most provinces have legislated mandatory coroner inquests into the deaths of children less than two years of age; however, it is still possible that some cases would fail to be reported to, or be classified by, police as homicide.

AGE AND SEX OF VICTIMS AND ACCUSED

Males account for the majority of victims and accused

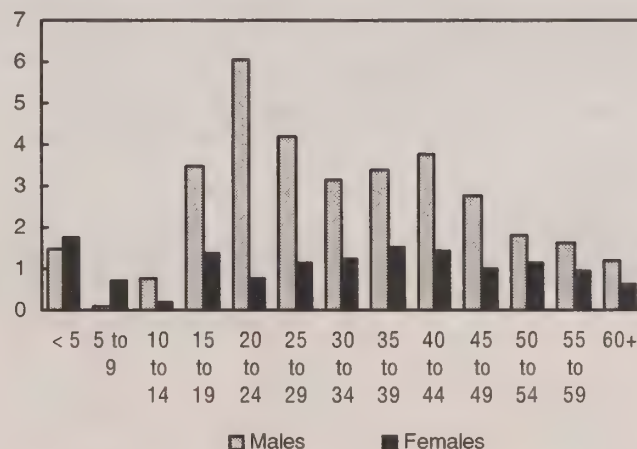
Historically, about two-thirds of homicide victims have been male. However, similar to the previous year, a higher than usual proportion of victims (71%) in 2001 were male. The median¹⁷ age for male victims of homicide was 33 years of age whereas the median age for female victims was a little older – 37 years of age. Nearly half (44%) of all victims in 2001 were between 20 and 39 years of age (Figure 7), with 22 year-olds having the highest single-age rate for victims. The risk for becoming a victim of homicide tends to decline with age, particularly after age 60. Victims 60 years or older comprised less than one in ten (8%) of the total number of homicide victims in 2001. As with homicide victims in general, older adults were most often killed by someone known to them (93%). Strangers were responsible for 3 of the 44 homicides (where relationship was known) committed against older adults in 2001.

Males accounted for the vast majority of all those accused of homicide in 2001 (87%), consistent with the average for the previous ten years. The median age for males and females accused of homicides was similar – 29 years of age for men and 28 years of age for women.

Figure 7

Victim homicide rates by age groups and sex, 2001

Rate per 100,000 population



Source: Homicide Survey, Policing Services Program, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada, September 2002.

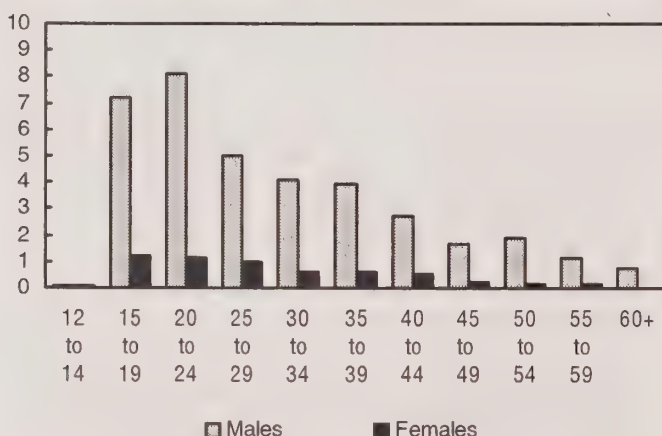
¹⁷ Median refers to the middle value in a set of values ordered from lowest to highest.

Those aged 18 years old had the highest single-age rate for accused in 2001. Beginning in the late 20s, the risk of being accused of homicide starts to decline with age (Figure 8). Whereas those aged 60 years or older comprised almost 17% of the Canadian population, they accounted for only 4% of those accused of homicide in 2001.

Figure 8

Accused homicide rates by age groups and sex, 2001

Rate per 100,000 population



Source: Homicide Survey, Policing Services Program, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada, September 2002.

YOUTH HOMICIDE

Homicides committed by youths lowest since 1969¹⁸

In 2001, 30 youths (persons 12 to 17 years of age) were accused of homicide, representing the third consecutive annual decline. This figure represented the lowest number of youths accused since 1969 and the lowest youth homicide rate since 1971. This number is considerably lower than the previous ten-year average of 52 youths accused of homicide each year (Table 10). Moreover, during the same ten-year time period, youths accounted for 9% of the total number of persons accused of homicide, compared to only 6% in 2001. The sharp decline in the total number of youth accused in 2001 was driven by a decrease in the number of males accused of homicide (Figure 9). Twenty-five young males were accused, 20 fewer than the previous ten-year average. Despite their lower numbers, males still continue to account for most homicides committed by youth (83%).

As is the case historically, youths (12 to 17 years) were more likely than adults to kill other youths and young adults. Among solved homicides in 2001, youths accused of homicide were responsible for killing 21 victims, 43% of whom were aged 12 to 24 years. Of the homicides committed by adults, 19% of victims were 12 to 24 years of age.

¹⁸ Prior to 1974, manslaughter was not included in the Homicide Survey; therefore, the number and rate of youth accused of homicide prior to 1974 may be slightly underestimated.

Table 10

Youths (12-17 years) Accused of Homicide, Canada, 1991-2001

Youths Accused of Homicide

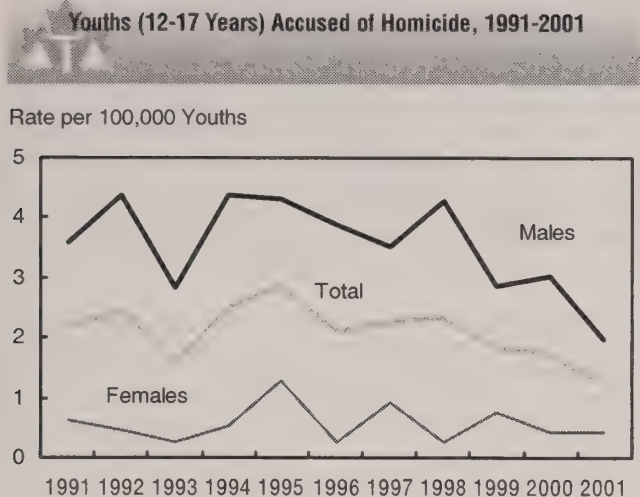
| Year | Number | | | Rate per 100,000 youth population ¹ | | | Total youth as % of total accused |
|-------------------|--------|--------|-------|--|--------|-------|-----------------------------------|
| | Male | Female | Total | Male | Female | Total | |
| 1991 ^r | 42 | 7 | 49 | 3.60 | 0.63 | 2.15 | 7.6 |
| 1992 ^r | 52 | 5 | 57 | 4.39 | 0.45 | 2.47 | 8.6 |
| 1993 ^r | 34 | 3 | 37 | 2.84 | 0.26 | 1.59 | 6.7 |
| 1994 ^r | 53 | 6 | 59 | 4.37 | 0.52 | 2.50 | 10.2 |
| 1995 | 53 | 15 | 68 | 4.32 | 1.29 | 2.85 | 11.8 |
| 1996 ^r | 48 | 3 | 51 | 3.87 | 0.26 | 2.11 | 9.2 |
| 1997 | 44 | 11 | 55 | 3.51 | 0.93 | 2.25 | 10.7 |
| 1998 | 54 | 3 | 57 | 4.29 | 0.25 | 2.33 | 10.8 |
| 1999 | 36 | 9 | 45 | 2.86 | 0.76 | 1.84 | 9.3 |
| 2000 ^r | 38 | 5 | 43 | 3.02 | 0.42 | 1.75 | 9.2 |
| 2001 | 25 | 5 | 30 | 1.97 | 0.42 | 1.21 | 6.2 |
| Average 1991-2000 | 45 | 7 | 52 | 3.71 | 0.58 | 2.18 | 9.4 |

^r revised

¹ Population estimates at July 1st, provided by Statistics Canada, Census and Demographic Statistics, Demography Division.

Source: Homicide Survey, Policing Services Program, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada, September 2002.

Figure 9



Source: Homicide Survey, Policing Services Program, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada, September 2002.

ABORIGINAL PEOPLES ARE OVER-REPRESENTED IN HOMICIDES

It has been widely documented that Aboriginal people are over-represented in the justice system.¹⁹ This also appears to hold true for their involvement in homicide. While Aboriginal people account for approximately 3% of the Canadian population, they comprised one-quarter (25%) of all persons accused of committing homicide in 2001 and 15% of all homicide victims. It is important to note that this information excludes those victims and accused where police services did not collect or report information on Aboriginal status – 42% of victims and 39% of accused in 2001.

TWO-THIRDS OF ACCUSED AND HALF OF VICTIMS HAVE A PREVIOUS CRIMINAL RECORD

In 2001, two-thirds (65%) of persons accused of homicide had a Canadian criminal record. Among those with a prior criminal history, the majority (58%) had been previously convicted of a violent offence: 4 for homicide, 48 for robbery and 128 for other violent offences. Among the four accused with a previous homicide conviction, three had completed their prison sentence and were living in the community and one was inside a correctional institution when the homicide occurred. At the same time, half (51%) of all homicide victims 12 years and over in 2001 had a Canadian criminal record, 54% of whom had been previously convicted of a violent crime: 2 for homicide, 29 for robbery, and 108 for other violent offences.

PRECIPITATING FACTORS

Most victims and accused had consumed alcohol and/or drugs at the time of the homicide

Alcohol, drugs and other intoxicants are known to play a role in the commission of many crimes including homicide.²⁰ In 2001, where alcohol/drug consumption was known, police reported that more than half (56%) of all homicide victims and three-quarters (75%) of accused persons had consumed alcohol and/or drugs at the time of the offence, similar to the pattern seen since 1991 when this information was first collected. As victims of homicide, males were almost twice as likely as females to have consumed alcohol and/or drugs, whereas female accused were slightly more likely than male accused to have been under the influence.

Half of homicide incidents motivated by anger and despair

As determined by police, the most common motive for committing homicide in 2001 was an argument, quarrel or incident inciting a vengeful or jealous reaction or an act of despair (58% of all homicide incidents). A further 20% were motivated by financial gain or the settling of accounts. There were three "random" killings (victim randomly selected) in 2001 and one homicide was motivated by hate. From 1991 to 2000, there were 13 homicide incidents that were motivated by hate, an average of just over one incident per year.

One in seven accused reported to have a psychological disorder

In 1997, the Homicide Survey began collecting information on any suspected mental or developmental disorders (such as schizophrenia, manic depression or developmental delays) among accused persons. It is important to note that this information is not intended to be diagnostic, and should be interpreted with some caution since it is not necessarily based upon a doctor's certification.

Excluding those cases in which mental status was unknown, police suspected the presence of a mental or developmental disorder among 14% of accused persons in 2001, similar to the percentage reported each year since 1997. No difference was found between the proportion of males and females reported to have a disorder.

¹⁹ Correctional Services Canada. Aboriginal Issues Branch. (1999). "Demographic Overview of Aboriginal Peoples in Canada and Aboriginal Offenders in Federal Corrections". Ottawa: Correctional Services Canada.

²⁰ Parker, R.N. & Auerhahn, K. (1999) "Drugs, alcohol and homicide: Issues in theory and research". Homicide: A Sourcebook of Social Research. Smith M.D. & Zahn, M.A. (eds). Thousand Oaks: Sage Publications. 176-191.

One-third of all homicides committed during commission of another offence

In 2001, more than one-third (37%) of all homicide incidents occurred during the commission of another criminal offence. Of these 190 incidents, 131 (69%) were committed at the same time as another violent offence: 64 during an assault, 30 during a robbery, 10 during a sexual assault, 7 during a kidnapping/abduction, 6 as a result of a stalking²¹ and 14 during other violent offences. Eight other homicides occurred as a result of arson, 13 were committed during other property offences, and 38 in combination with other types of criminal offences.

Most incidents occur in the late evening and early night

Not surprisingly, most homicides occur in the evening to early hours of the night. In 2001, more than half (55%) of all incidents where the time was known occurred between 8 p.m. and 4 a.m. Since 1991, when collection of this information first began, the pattern has been fairly consistent: the fewest number of incidents have tended to occur during the early morning and daytime hours, with the number of incidents steadily rising as the day progresses.

OCCUPATIONS AT RISK

Two police officers killed in the line of duty

Despite the obvious dangers inherent in police work, the number of police officers murdered in Canada in the line of duty is relatively low. Since 1961, there have been 117 police officers killed while on the job, an average of three police officers each year. In 2001, two police officers were victims of homicide, one in Manitoba and the other in Nunavut, representing the first time a police officer has been killed in any of the three Territories since recording began. By comparison, preliminary figures for 2001 from the United States, with a population about ten times greater than Canada's, reported 69 police officers feloniously killed in the line of duty (excluding 71 victims killed in the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks).²²

One prostitute reported killed in 2001

Since 1991, 73 prostitutes have been killed while working, although only one of these homicides was reported for 2001²³. All but three were female and all but five were 18 years of age or older. The number of prostitutes killed within the most recent five-year period has generally been lower compared to the period from 1991 to 1996. From 1997 to 2001, 17 prostitutes have been killed, most of which occurred in the western provinces: 4 in British Columbia, 3 in Alberta, 3 in Manitoba and 1 in Saskatchewan. Another 5 have been killed in Ontario and one in Nova Scotia. It should be noted that the number of prostitutes reported killed as a result of their profession likely under-represents the actual figure as only those incidents where the police are certain that the victim was killed in the course of engaging in prostitution-related activities are counted.²⁴

There were 17 other persons who were victims of homicide while "on the job" in 2001 in Canada, including four taxi drivers, two security guards, and two business managers.

METHODOLOGY

The Homicide Survey began collecting police-reported data on homicide incidents, victims and accused persons in Canada in 1961. Until 1974, cases of manslaughter and infanticide were not included in the survey. Whenever a homicide becomes known to police, the investigating police department completes a survey questionnaire which is then forwarded to the Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics. This questionnaire remained virtually unchanged from 1961 to 1990. In 1991 and later in 1997, in an effort to respond to changing information needs, the survey was revised and expanded.

Note that every effort is made to count homicides in the year in which they *occurred*. However, in some circumstances, homicides are counted in the year in which they are *reported* to police, regardless of the date they actually occurred. Where possible, such discrepancies are footnoted in the report. Also, socio-demographic and other information (e.g., history of domestic violence, alcohol/drug consumption) on persons accused of homicide are only available for solved incidents (i.e., where at least one accused has been identified). In incidents where there are multiple accused, only the *closest* relationship between the victim and any of the accused is recorded.

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Homicide occurs when a person directly or indirectly, by any means, causes the death of a human being. Homicide is either culpable (murder, manslaughter or infanticide) or non-culpable (not an offence) (*Criminal Code of Canada*, sections 222 – 240).

Murder occurs when a person intentionally causes the death of another human being, or means to cause bodily harm that the person knows is likely to cause death.

First degree murder occurs when:

- a) it is planned and deliberate; or
- b) the victim is a person employed and acting in the course of his/her work for the preservation and maintenance of the public peace (e.g., police officer, correctional worker); or
- c) the death is caused by a person committing or attempting to commit certain serious offences (e.g., sexual assault, kidnapping, hijacking, criminal harassment).

Second degree murder is all murder that is not first degree.

²¹ For more information on criminal harassment, see Hackett, K. (2000). "Criminal Harassment". Juristat, Catalogue 85-002-XPE, Vol. 20, No. 11. Ottawa: Statistics Canada.

²² U.S. Department of Justice. Federal Bureau of Investigation. Press Release. May 15, 2002.

²³ Homicide investigations in Port Coquitlam, British Columbia are ongoing and have yet to be reported by police to CCJS.

²⁴ For more information on prostitution, see Duchesne, D. (1997). "Street Prostitution in Canada". Juristat, Catalogue 85-002-XPE, Vol. 17 No. 2. Ottawa: Statistics Canada.

Manslaughter is culpable homicide that is not murder or infanticide. It is generally considered to be a homicide committed in the heat of passion caused by sudden provocation.

Infanticide occurs when a female causes the death of her newly-born child, if her mind is considered disturbed from the effects of giving birth or effects of lactation.

Incident - an incident is defined as the occurrence of one (or more) criminal offence(s) during one single, distinct event,

regardless of the number of victims. If there are multiple victims or multiple accused, the offences must occur at the same location and at the same time if they are to be included within the same incident. The incident count will normally be lower than the victim count due to incidents involving multiple victims.

Accused – is a person who has been identified as an offender in an incident and against whom a charge may be laid in connection with that incident.

Table 11

Number of Homicides, by Province/Territory, 1961-2001

| Year | Nfld. Lab. | P.E.I. | N.S. | N.B. | Que. | Ont. | Man. | Sask. | Alta. | B.C. | Yukon | N.W.T. ¹ | Nvt. | Canada |
|-------------------|------------|--------|------|------|------|------|------|-------|-------|------|-------|---------------------|------|--------|
| 1961 | 1 | 1 | 6 | 2 | 52 | 89 | 15 | 14 | 18 | 34 | 1 | 0 | ... | 233 |
| 1962 | 0 | 1 | 10 | 8 | 62 | 76 | 19 | 13 | 18 | 55 | 3 | 0 | ... | 265 |
| 1963 | 3 | 0 | 6 | 5 | 69 | 76 | 16 | 8 | 27 | 35 | 3 | 1 | ... | 249 |
| 1964 | 5 | 0 | 13 | 5 | 52 | 81 | 16 | 20 | 25 | 32 | 1 | 3 | ... | 253 |
| 1965 | 6 | 4 | 10 | 5 | 63 | 77 | 15 | 15 | 20 | 57 | 3 | 2 | ... | 277 |
| 1966 | 3 | 1 | 9 | 6 | 56 | 71 | 17 | 12 | 27 | 48 | 0 | 0 | ... | 250 |
| 1967 | 1 | 0 | 10 | 5 | 75 | 114 | 15 | 25 | 38 | 47 | 6 | 2 | ... | 338 |
| 1968 | 5 | 0 | 9 | 5 | 102 | 104 | 28 | 23 | 25 | 73 | 1 | 0 | ... | 375 |
| 1969 | 5 | 1 | 12 | 1 | 126 | 111 | 28 | 33 | 23 | 50 | 0 | 1 | ... | 391 |
| 1970 | 1 | 1 | 15 | 8 | 141 | 115 | 29 | 24 | 42 | 78 | 6 | 7 | ... | 467 |
| 1971 | 2 | 0 | 16 | 10 | 124 | 151 | 33 | 29 | 45 | 61 | 0 | 2 | ... | 473 |
| 1972 | 2 | 2 | 14 | 11 | 157 | 141 | 36 | 28 | 37 | 88 | 3 | 2 | ... | 521 |
| 1973 | 3 | 0 | 19 | 17 | 155 | 160 | 38 | 23 | 36 | 87 | 4 | 4 | ... | 546 |
| 1974 | 3 | 2 | 8 | 21 | 169 | 160 | 42 | 31 | 44 | 107 | 5 | 8 | ... | 600 |
| 1975 | 4 | 0 | 14 | 12 | 226 | 206 | 37 | 36 | 57 | 98 | 6 | 5 | ... | 701 |
| 1976 | 6 | 2 | 25 | 14 | 205 | 183 | 31 | 34 | 68 | 88 | 4 | 8 | ... | 668 |
| 1977 | 8 | 1 | 14 | 38 | 197 | 192 | 44 | 46 | 70 | 91 | 6 | 4 | ... | 711 |
| 1978 | 9 | 4 | 13 | 27 | 180 | 182 | 39 | 32 | 84 | 85 | 2 | 4 | ... | 661 |
| 1979 | 5 | 0 | 17 | 11 | 186 | 175 | 44 | 36 | 56 | 90 | 4 | 7 | ... | 631 |
| 1980 | 3 | 1 | 12 | 9 | 181 | 158 | 31 | 31 | 55 | 105 | 2 | 4 | ... | 592 |
| 1981 | 4 | 1 | 11 | 17 | 186 | 170 | 41 | 29 | 73 | 110 | 1 | 5 | ... | 648 |
| 1982 | 6 | 0 | 12 | 13 | 190 | 184 | 35 | 39 | 70 | 109 | 2 | 7 | ... | 667 |
| 1983 | 6 | 0 | 13 | 11 | 190 | 202 | 40 | 33 | 75 | 108 | 1 | 3 | ... | 682 |
| 1984 | 6 | 0 | 15 | 14 | 198 | 190 | 43 | 30 | 54 | 110 | 2 | 5 | ... | 667 |
| 1985 ² | 5 | 1 | 26 | 14 | 219 | 193 | 26 | 28 | 63 | 113 | 6 | 10 | ... | 704 |
| 1986 | 4 | 0 | 15 | 12 | 156 | 139 | 47 | 26 | 64 | 89 | 3 | 14 | ... | 569 |
| 1987 | 5 | 0 | 14 | 20 | 174 | 204 | 44 | 30 | 73 | 78 | 0 | 2 | ... | 644 |
| 1988 | 7 | 1 | 11 | 8 | 154 | 186 | 31 | 23 | 66 | 80 | 1 | 8 | ... | 576 |
| 1989 | 5 | 1 | 16 | 18 | 215 | 175 | 43 | 22 | 67 | 86 | 2 | 7 | ... | 657 |
| 1990 | 0 | 1 | 9 | 12 | 184 | 182 | 39 | 36 | 74 | 110 | 1 | 12 | ... | 660 |
| 1991 | 10 | 2 | 21 | 17 | 181 | 245 | 42 | 21 | 84 | 128 | 0 | 3 | ... | 754 |
| 1992 | 2 | 0 | 21 | 11 | 166 | 242 | 29 | 32 | 92 | 122 | 2 | 13 | ... | 732 |
| 1993 | 7 | 2 | 19 | 11 | 159 | 192 | 31 | 30 | 49 | 120 | 0 | 7 | ... | 627 |
| 1994 | 4 | 1 | 19 | 15 | 126 | 192 | 29 | 24 | 66 | 113 | 3 | 4 | ... | 596 |
| 1995 | 5 | 1 | 17 | 14 | 135 | 181 | 27 | 21 | 60 | 120 | 4 | 3 | ... | 588 |
| 1996 | 7 | 1 | 18 | 9 | 154 | 187 | 45 | 32 | 53 | 125 | 0 | 4 | ... | 635 |
| 1997 | 7 | 0 | 24 | 8 | 132 | 178 | 31 | 25 | 61 | 116 | 1 | 3 | ... | 586 |
| 1998 | 7 | 1 | 24 | 5 | 137 | 156 | 33 | 33 | 64 | 90 | 3 | 5 | ... | 558 |
| 1999 | 2 | 1 | 13 | 9 | 137 | 162 | 26 | 13 | 61 | 110 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 538 |
| 2000 ^r | 6 | 3 | 15 | 10 | 150 | 156 | 30 | 26 | 59 | 85 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 546 |
| 2001 | 1 | 2 | 9 | 8 | 140 | 170 | 34 | 27 | 70 | 85 | 1 | 4 | 3 | 554 |

... figures not appropriate or not applicable

^r revised

¹ Includes Nunavut before 1999. See textbox for further explanation.

² Excludes 329 victims killed in the Air India incident.

Source: Homicide Survey, Policing Services Program, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada, September 2002.

Table 12



Homicide Rates¹, by Province/Territory, 1961-2001²

| Year | Nfld.Lab. | P.E.I. | N.S. | N.B. | Que. | Ont. | Man. | Sask. | Alta. | B.C. | Yukon | N.W.T. ³ | Nvt. | Canada |
|-------------------|-----------|--------|------|------|------|------|------|-------|-------|------|-------|---------------------|-------|--------|
| 1961 | 0.22 | 0.96 | 0.81 | 0.33 | 0.99 | 1.43 | 1.63 | 1.51 | 1.35 | 2.09 | 6.85 | 0.00 | ... | 1.28 |
| 1962 | 0.00 | 0.93 | 1.38 | 1.32 | 1.15 | 1.20 | 2.03 | 1.40 | 1.31 | 3.31 | 20.00 | 0.00 | ... | 1.43 |
| 1963 | 0.63 | 0.00 | 0.80 | 0.82 | 1.26 | 1.17 | 1.69 | 0.86 | 1.92 | 2.06 | 20.00 | 3.85 | ... | 1.32 |
| 1964 | 1.04 | 0.00 | 1.72 | 0.82 | 0.93 | 1.22 | 1.67 | 2.12 | 1.75 | 1.83 | 6.67 | 11.11 | ... | 1.31 |
| 1965 | 1.23 | 3.67 | 1.32 | 0.81 | 1.11 | 1.13 | 1.55 | 1.58 | 1.38 | 3.17 | 21.43 | 7.41 | ... | 1.41 |
| 1966 | 0.61 | 0.92 | 1.19 | 0.97 | 0.97 | 1.02 | 1.77 | 1.26 | 1.85 | 2.56 | 0.00 | 0.00 | ... | 1.25 |
| 1967 | 0.20 | 0.00 | 1.32 | 0.81 | 1.28 | 1.60 | 1.56 | 2.61 | 2.55 | 2.42 | 40.00 | 6.90 | ... | 1.66 |
| 1968 | 0.99 | 0.00 | 1.17 | 0.80 | 1.72 | 1.43 | 2.88 | 2.40 | 1.64 | 3.64 | 6.67 | 0.00 | ... | 1.81 |
| 1969 | 0.97 | 0.90 | 1.55 | 0.16 | 2.11 | 1.50 | 2.86 | 3.44 | 1.48 | 2.43 | 0.00 | 3.23 | ... | 1.86 |
| 1970 | 0.19 | 0.91 | 1.92 | 1.28 | 2.34 | 1.52 | 2.95 | 2.55 | 2.63 | 3.67 | 35.29 | 21.21 | ... | 2.19 |
| 1971 | 0.38 | 0.00 | 2.01 | 1.56 | 2.02 | 1.92 | 3.30 | 3.11 | 2.70 | 2.72 | 0.00 | 5.49 | ... | 2.15 |
| 1972 | 0.37 | 1.76 | 1.75 | 1.70 | 2.54 | 1.77 | 3.59 | 3.04 | 2.18 | 3.82 | 14.89 | 5.16 | ... | 2.34 |
| 1973 | 0.55 | 0.00 | 2.34 | 2.59 | 2.49 | 1.98 | 3.77 | 2.52 | 2.09 | 3.68 | 18.91 | 9.82 | ... | 2.43 |
| 1974 | 0.55 | 1.72 | 0.98 | 3.16 | 2.70 | 1.95 | 4.12 | 3.41 | 2.51 | 4.38 | 23.73 | 19.45 | ... | 2.63 |
| 1975 | 0.72 | 0.00 | 1.69 | 1.77 | 3.57 | 2.48 | 3.61 | 3.92 | 3.15 | 3.92 | 27.39 | 11.67 | ... | 3.03 |
| 1976 | 1.07 | 1.69 | 2.99 | 2.03 | 3.20 | 2.17 | 3.00 | 3.65 | 3.64 | 3.47 | 17.80 | 18.05 | ... | 2.85 |
| 1977 | 1.42 | 0.83 | 1.67 | 5.46 | 3.06 | 2.26 | 4.24 | 4.87 | 3.59 | 3.54 | 26.27 | 8.96 | ... | 3.00 |
| 1978 | 1.59 | 3.29 | 1.54 | 3.86 | 2.79 | 2.12 | 3.75 | 3.36 | 4.15 | 3.25 | 8.42 | 8.84 | ... | 2.76 |
| 1979 | 0.88 | 0.00 | 2.00 | 1.56 | 2.88 | 2.02 | 4.24 | 3.75 | 2.67 | 3.38 | 16.67 | 15.31 | ... | 2.61 |
| 1980 | 0.52 | 0.81 | 1.41 | 1.27 | 2.78 | 1.81 | 3.00 | 3.20 | 2.51 | 3.83 | 8.22 | 8.64 | ... | 2.41 |
| 1981 | 0.70 | 0.81 | 1.29 | 2.41 | 2.84 | 1.93 | 3.96 | 2.97 | 3.18 | 3.90 | 4.18 | 10.51 | ... | 2.61 |
| 1982 | 1.04 | 0.00 | 1.40 | 1.84 | 2.89 | 2.06 | 3.34 | 3.95 | 2.96 | 3.79 | 8.17 | 14.14 | ... | 2.66 |
| 1983 | 1.04 | 0.00 | 1.50 | 1.54 | 2.88 | 2.23 | 3.77 | 3.29 | 3.14 | 3.72 | 4.23 | 5.88 | ... | 2.69 |
| 1984 | 1.03 | 0.00 | 1.71 | 1.94 | 2.99 | 2.07 | 4.01 | 2.95 | 2.26 | 3.73 | 8.36 | 9.51 | ... | 2.60 |
| 1985 ⁴ | 0.86 | 0.78 | 2.94 | 1.93 | 3.29 | 2.08 | 2.40 | 2.73 | 2.62 | 3.80 | 24.63 | 18.38 | ... | 2.72 |
| 1986 | 0.69 | 0.00 | 1.69 | 1.65 | 2.33 | 1.47 | 4.31 | 2.53 | 2.63 | 2.96 | 12.26 | 25.60 | ... | 2.18 |
| 1987 | 0.87 | 0.00 | 1.57 | 2.75 | 2.57 | 2.12 | 4.01 | 2.90 | 3.00 | 2.56 | 0.00 | 3.63 | ... | 2.43 |
| 1988 | 1.22 | 0.77 | 1.23 | 1.10 | 2.25 | 1.89 | 2.81 | 2.24 | 2.69 | 2.57 | 3.76 | 14.36 | ... | 2.15 |
| 1989 | 0.87 | 0.77 | 1.77 | 2.45 | 3.10 | 1.73 | 3.90 | 2.16 | 2.68 | 2.69 | 7.37 | 12.28 | ... | 2.41 |
| 1990 | 0.00 | 0.77 | 0.99 | 1.62 | 2.63 | 1.77 | 3.53 | 3.57 | 2.90 | 3.34 | 3.60 | 20.37 | ... | 2.38 |
| 1991 | 1.73 | 1.53 | 2.29 | 2.28 | 2.56 | 2.35 | 3.79 | 2.09 | 3.24 | 3.79 | 0.00 | 4.92 | ... | 2.69 |
| 1992 | 0.34 | 0.00 | 2.28 | 1.47 | 2.33 | 2.29 | 2.61 | 3.19 | 3.49 | 3.52 | 6.61 | 20.83 | ... | 2.58 |
| 1993 | 1.21 | 1.51 | 2.06 | 1.47 | 2.22 | 1.80 | 2.77 | 2.98 | 1.83 | 3.36 | 0.00 | 11.02 | ... | 2.18 |
| 1994 | 0.70 | 0.75 | 2.05 | 2.00 | 1.75 | 1.77 | 2.58 | 2.38 | 2.44 | 3.07 | 9.98 | 6.14 | ... | 2.05 |
| 1995 | 0.88 | 0.74 | 1.83 | 1.86 | 1.86 | 1.65 | 2.39 | 2.07 | 2.19 | 3.17 | 12.95 | 4.51 | ... | 2.00 |
| 1996 | 1.25 | 0.73 | 1.93 | 1.20 | 2.12 | 1.68 | 3.97 | 3.14 | 1.91 | 3.22 | 0.00 | 5.92 | ... | 2.14 |
| 1997 | 1.26 | 0.00 | 2.57 | 1.06 | 1.81 | 1.58 | 2.73 | 2.45 | 2.15 | 2.93 | 3.10 | 4.43 | ... | 1.95 |
| 1998 | 1.28 | 0.73 | 2.56 | 0.66 | 1.87 | 1.37 | 2.90 | 3.22 | 2.20 | 2.25 | 9.52 | 12.18 | ... | 1.84 |
| 1999 | 0.37 | 0.73 | 1.38 | 1.19 | 1.86 | 1.41 | 2.28 | 1.27 | 2.06 | 2.73 | 3.22 | 2.44 | 7.45 | 1.76 |
| 2000 ^r | 1.12 | 2.17 | 1.59 | 1.32 | 2.03 | 1.34 | 2.62 | 2.54 | 1.96 | 2.09 | 6.54 | 2.44 | 10.94 | 1.77 |
| 2001 | 0.19 | 1.44 | 0.95 | 1.06 | 1.89 | 1.43 | 2.96 | 2.66 | 2.28 | 2.08 | 3.35 | 9.79 | 10.65 | 1.78 |

... figures not appropriate or not applicable.

^r revised

¹ Rates are calculated per 100,000 population. Population estimates at July 1st, provided by Statistics Canada, Census and Demographic Statistics, Demography Division.

Estimates of population used:

1961-1990: Revised intercensal estimates

1991-1995: Final intercensal estimates

1996-1997: Final postcensal estimates

1998-2000: Updated postcensal estimates

2001: Preliminary postcensal estimates

² As of 1971, population estimates were adjusted to reflect new methods of calculation.

³ Includes Nunavut until 1999. See textbox for further explanation.

⁴ Excludes 329 victims killed in the Air India incident.

Source: Homicide Survey, Policing Services Program, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada, September 2002.

Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics

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YOUTH CUSTODY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES IN CANADA, 2000/01

by Julie Marinelli

Highlights

- In 2000/01, the rate of sentenced custody admissions declined by 6%, to 60 admissions per 10,000 youth.
- The remand (temporary detention) admissions rate declined by 6% from 1999/00, to 65 admissions per 10,000 youth.
- The rate of admissions to probation was down 1% compared to the previous year, to 149 admissions per 10,000 youth overall.
- Among the eight reporting jurisdictions, excluding Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Northwest Territories, and Nunavut, the overall youth correctional services admissions declined by 7% in 2000/01. Admissions to sentenced custody accounted for 18% and remand 27% of the youth correctional services admissions with the remainder being probation.
- Time served by young offenders in remand is generally short – approximately half of all remanded young offenders were released after one week or less. Half of young offenders in secure custody (53%) and 44% in open custody were released after one month or less.
- The most common offences resulting in sentenced custody (open and secure) were related to property offences, accounting for 39% of admissions. Violent offences accounted for 27% and offences under the *Young Offenders Act* for 14%. In comparison, property offences accounted for 48% of probation admissions, while violent offences accounted for 32% of these admissions.
- Aboriginal youth continue to be over-represented in the youth correctional system, accounting for 24% of admissions to sentenced custody and 22% of probation admissions, while representing only 5% of the youth population.
- On an average day, the number of young offenders on probation far exceeds the number of young offenders in custody, ranging from 5 to 11 times higher among reporting provinces and territories. In 2000/01, incarceration rates among reporting provinces ranged from 9 young offenders in custody per 10,000 youth in British Columbia to 36 per 10,000 youth in Saskatchewan. Probation rates ranged from 99 in British Columbia to 202 per 10,000 youth in Ontario.



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Introduction

The nature of the youth correctional system in Canada has been widely debated over the years by the public, politicians, and policy-makers. Incarceration of youth has been accepted as one method of deterring youth from criminal behaviour. However, it has been argued that the “get tough” approach and its focus on punitive measures does not provide youth with effective treatment and rehabilitation that are needed to successfully reintegrate them back into the community (Varma & Marinos, 2000; Bala, 1997; Baron & Hartnagel, 1996).

The *Youth Criminal Justice Act*, which will come into force in April 2003, represents a new strategy toward the administration of youth justice in Canada. This Act is intended to promote accountability and responsibility while encouraging alternatives to youth imprisonment through the use of community-based sentences, which focus on rehabilitation, reintegration and reparation. The approach is intended to “provide immediate and long-term responses to youth crime by building links to community-based youth crime prevention programs and to initiatives that address the root causes of criminal behaviour” (Department of Justice, 2002).

The purpose of this *Juristat* is to provide information describing the case-flow and workload of the youth correctional system for 2000/01. Data are presented from three perspectives: 1) case-flow data presented here are drawn from the Youth Custody and Community Services (YCCS) survey and include statistics on youth admissions to remand, sentenced custody and to probation. YCCS data describe the characteristics of youth admitted to correctional institutions and probation according to the nature of the offence, the length of disposition ordered by the court and releases from correctional services by actual time served, as well as, their sex, age and aboriginal status; 2) data on alternative measures taken from the Alternative Measures survey, and, 3) data on average (workload) counts taken from the Corrections Key Indicator Reports (KIR). These daily workload counts form the basis for calculating incarceration and probation rates based on the number of youth aged 12 to 17 years of age in the population.

Jurisdictional comparison

When examining the data contained in this *Juristat* and the trends and differences between jurisdictions, it is important to consider that these results are in part a reflection of the differences in the administration of youth justice across Canada. Factors that contribute to differing trends include the use of informal (e.g., police discretion) and formal diversion measures (e.g. alternative measures) by police and Crown. Such diversion methods have an impact on both the court case-flow as well as intakes to correctional facilities and programs.

As the data are drawn from the local information systems, they also reflect local case management practices as well as differences in the way the information is maintained on jurisdictional case management systems. Consequently, the reader is advised to consider table notes and to use caution in making direct comparisons between jurisdictions and with prior years.

ADMISSIONS TO YOUTH CUSTODY AND PROBATION

Correctional supervision occurs when a youth¹ commences an uninterrupted period of supervision within a specific custody status (e.g., remand, secure or open) or probation under the authority of the provincial/territorial director responsible for the administration of youth corrections and/or programs. Admissions are counted each time a young offender commences a particular custody status or a term of probation, including changes from one status to another (e.g., one youth held during trial in remand custody and then begins a sentence of secure custody results in two admissions). An admission is tabulated according to the most serious offence (MSO).

¹ A person who is twelve years of age or older, but less than eighteen years of age, at the time of committing an offence.

Sentencing Options Available in Youth Court

Youth court judges have many options available when sentencing a young offender. These options include custody, probation, fine, community service, restitution or a conditional or absolute discharge.

Custody is the most serious sentence that may be used against young offenders in Canada. Custody may be either secure or open. Secure custody refers to facilities designated for secure restraint. Open custody refers to facilities such as residential centres or group homes. Terms of custody for young offenders are limited to a maximum of two years for convictions for which the adult maximum is not life imprisonment. For crimes punishable by life or where multiple offences are involved, the maximum is three years. For first degree murder, a young offender may be sentenced for up to ten years: six years in custody followed by four years of conditional supervision.

Probation is served in the community and involves placing a number of conditions on the offender for a specified period of time – up to two years. Probation orders include a number of mandatory conditions and may include other optional conditions. The mandatory conditions require the offender to keep the peace, be of good behaviour, and appear before the court as required. Optional conditions may include a curfew, reporting to a probation officer, and attending school. Probation is often used in combination with other sanctions.

A community service order is a disposition where a young person is ordered to perform unpaid work for the community. The maximum length of a community service order is 240 hours with a maximum term of completion of twelve months.

Other available sanctions include fines, orders to pay restitution or compensation, prohibition (e.g. weapons) or a conditional or absolute discharge.

Although it is possible that a youth is being held for multiple offences related to a single admission, the admission appears only once in the counts in relation to the most serious offence. Therefore, less serious offences tend to be under-represented in tables that describe offence information. For more information on the YCCS survey, refer to the Methodology section at the end of this report.

In 2000/01, there were 14,909 admissions to sentenced custody in Canada (Table 1). Slightly more than half of these (53%) were sentenced admissions to open custody, while the remainder were to secure custody. In addition, remand (temporary detention) accounted for 9,362 admissions to youth custody. Nevertheless, the majority of admissions to youth correctional programs were for probation. In 2000/01, there were 36,509 probation admissions. Comparing reporting jurisdictions to the previous year, admissions for young persons sentenced to custody and to remand decreased by 6% each, while probation remained fairly stable (-1%).

CUSTODY ADMISSIONS

In 2000/01, remand admissions accounted for the largest share (39%) of custodial admissions among the 11 reporting jurisdictions, while 33% of admissions were to open custody and 29% to secure custody (Figure 1).

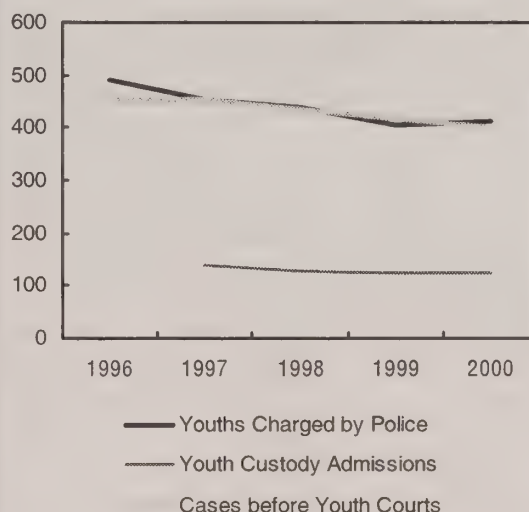
Trends in Youth Crime

Police reported crime statistics show that since 1991 the rate of youths charged by police has dropped by 34%. In 2000, youths were charged at a rate of 411 youths per 10,000 in Canada (Logan, 2001). While the rate of youth property crime decreased consistently during this period of time, the youth crime rate for violent crimes increased by 7% in 2000, after four years of decline, the largest year-over-year increase since 1991. Consistent with the overall trend in police rates, the rate of cases processed in youth court declined by 11% from 1996/97 to 2000/01 (deSouza, 2002). Throughout these years, approximately 60% of cases heard in youth court resulted in a finding of guilt, one-half of cases with convictions ended with a probation order as the most serious sentence, while another one-third ended in custody.



Trends in Youth Crime, 1996-2000

Rate per 10,000 youth



Note: The Youth Custody and Community Services admissions data have been available since 1997/98.

Sources: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, Youth Custody and Community Services Survey and the Youth Court Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics.

While remand is not a sentence under the YOA, the custodial nature of remand detention necessitates the inclusion of these data as a custody status. Youth are normally remanded because youth court has denied them bail (i.e., release prior to court hearing) based on the determination that the youth poses a danger to society or there may be a chance that they will not appear for their court hearing. In general, most youth held in remand are awaiting a court hearing or sentencing and, as such, are held in this status for relatively short periods of time. Accordingly, for this analysis, custody admissions refer to admissions to remand, as well as to programs of sentenced secure and open custody.

Alternative Measures in Canada

Alternative measures data are drawn from the Alternative Measures survey, which collects data on the number of agreements reached and completed. (Please refer to the Methodology section for detailed information regarding this survey). Alternative Measures refers to formalized programs across Canada through which persons who would otherwise proceed to court are dealt with via non-judicial, community-based alternatives. Alternative Measures include programs which have been authorized by the Attorney General that may be offered at the pre-charge stage, the post-charge stage, or both. Pursuant to the Young Offenders Act (YOA) these programs are designed to balance society's right to protection against the needs of youth in contact with the law.

The involvement of a youth in an alternative measures program is contingent upon the youth acknowledging participation in the incident and agreeing to enter into the program. There were 24,002 alternative measures cases that reached agreement in 2000/01. The rate of alternative measures decreased by 18 % from 120 per 10,000 youth in 1999/00 to 98 per 10,000 in 2000/01. The participation rate among the eight² reporting jurisdictions varied across the provinces ranging from 59 per 10,000 youth in Ontario to 242 per 10,000 youth in Saskatchewan in 2000/01.

There is considerable flexibility in the decision to establish alternative measures and the way in which the program will be offered.³ Typical programs include community service, personal service or restitution to a victim, apologies or educational sessions. In 2000/01, community service was the most frequent type of alternative measure administered by reporting jurisdictions (26%), followed by apology (19%) and social skills improvement (11%).

Male offenders represent the largest proportion of youth participating in alternative measures. In 2000/01, males accounted for 63% of the alternative measure cases. Fourteen and 15 year olds accounted for the majority of youth participating in alternative measures programs (22% and 24% respectively) followed by youth aged 16 and 17 (17% and 14% respectively).

Aboriginal youth are disproportionately represented at all levels of the criminal justice system, including alternative measures programs. While representing 5% of the youth population, Aboriginal youth accounted for 13% of alternative measures cases.⁴

In 2000/01, property offences accounted for the highest proportion of alternative measures cases reaching agreement (68%).⁵ Mischief represented 8%, followed by violent offences (7%) and other Criminal Code offences (4%).

Youth are considered successful in alternative measures once all terms and conditions of the agreement have been satisfied. In 2000/01, 92% of youth successfully completed all measures stated within their agreements.⁶

Youth Criminal Justice Act: Extrajudicial Measures

The alternative measures provisions are not being continued in the YCJA. Instead, the Act recognizes a broader range of diversionary measures. Extrajudicial measures are set out in the Act according to the following principles:

- (a) extrajudicial measures are an effective way to address youth crime;
- (b) extrajudicial measures allow for effective and timely interventions focused on correcting offending behaviour, and;
- (c) extrajudicial measures are presumed to be adequate to hold a young person accountable for his or her offending behaviour if the young person has committed a non-violent offence and has not previously been found guilty of an offence.

Specifically, the Act includes warnings, police and crown cautions, referrals and extrajudicial sanctions. These sanctions are comparable to the current alternative measures.

The YCJA also states that extrajudicial measures be designed to provide an effective and timely response to offending behaviour outside the bounds of judicial measures. In addition, the Act encourages the youth and the victim/community to be involved in the design and implementation of the programs followed by participation in decisions related to accountability and reparation.

Youth Participation in Alternative Measures (AM), by Jurisdiction, 1997/98 to 2000/01

| Jurisdiction | Number of Cases Reaching Agreement in AM | | | | | Rate per 10,000 youth | | | |
|---------------------------|--|---------------|---------------|---------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------|------------|------------|-----------|
| | 1997/98 | 1998/99 | 1999/00 | 2000/01 | % change 1999/00 to 2000/01 | 1997/98 | 1998/99 | 1999/00 | 2000/01 |
| Newfoundland and Labrador | 780 | 502 | 577 | 537 | -7 | 150 | 101 | 120 | 115 |
| Prince Edward Island | 180 | 187 | 127 | 106 | -17 | 153 | 155 | 103 | 86 |
| Nova Scotia | 1,182 | 1,010 | .. | .. | ... | 155 | 134 | ... | ... |
| New Brunswick | 718 | 726 | .. | .. | ... | 115 | 117 | ... | ... |
| Quebec | 9,683 | 9,279 | 9,162 | 9,126 | 0 | 167 | 165 | 167 | 169 |
| Ontario | 7,294 | 6,000 | 6,037 | 5,508 | -9 | 81 | 66 | 66 | 59 |
| Manitoba | 1,934 | 1,509 | 1,866 | 1,509 | -19 | 201 | 155 | 190 | 153 |
| Saskatchewan ¹ | 1,731 | 1,796 | 1,415 | 2,312 | 63 | 179 | 186 | 147 | 242 |
| Alberta ² | 9,111 | 10,014 | 4,636 | 4,854 | 5 | 359 | 384 | 176 | 183 |
| British Columbia | .. | 2,003 | .. | .. | ... | ... | 63 | ... | ... |
| Yukon | 47 | 42 | 44 | 50 | 14 | 168 | 140 | 148 | 168 |
| Northwest Territories | 212 | 105 | .. | .. | ... | 312 | 150 | ... | ... |
| Nunavut | .. | .. | .. | .. | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Total | 32,872 | 33,173 | 23,864 | 24,002 | 1 | 134 | 135 | 120 | 98 |

.. Figures not available for any reference period

... Figures not available for a specific reference period

... Figures not applicable

¹ Due to data fluctuations for alternative measure cases in Saskatchewan, caution should be exercised when making comparisons between 2000/01 data and previous years data because of changes in their data collection procedures.

² Alberta reported partial data for 1999/00 and 2000/01.

Source: Alternative Measures Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics.

² Excludes Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, British Columbia, Northwest Territories, and Nunavut, while partial data were reported by Alberta.

³ La Prairie, C. "Some Reflections on New Criminal Justice Policies in Canada: Restorative Justice, Alternative Measures and Conditional Sentences." *The Australian & New Zealand Journal of Criminology*, 32.2 (1999): 139-152.

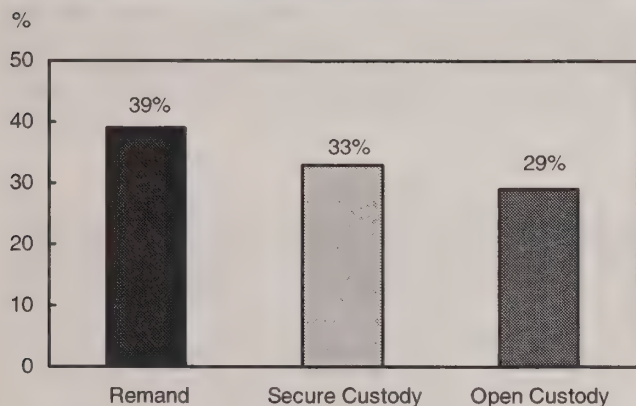
⁴ Excludes Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Quebec, Manitoba, British Columbia, Northwest Territories and Nunavut, while partial data were reported by Ontario.

⁵ Excludes Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Quebec, British Columbia, Northwest Territories and Nunavut, while partial data were reported by Ontario.

⁶ Excludes Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Quebec, British Columbia, Northwest Territories and Nunavut, while partial data were reported by Ontario.

Figure 1

Remand accounted for the largest share of youth custody admissions in 2000/01



Note: Excludes remand data for Saskatchewan and partial Ontario.

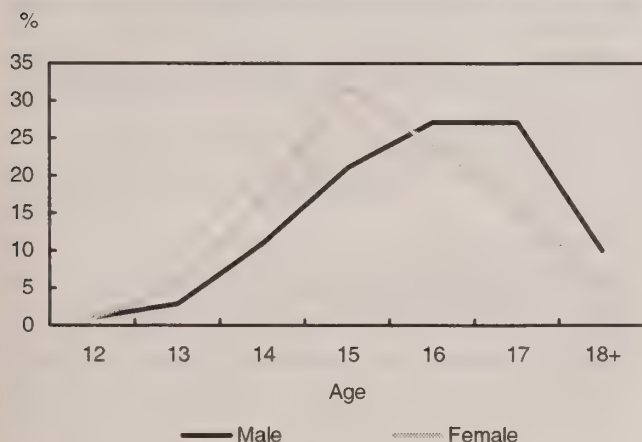
Source: Youth Custody and Community Services Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics.

Characteristics of Young Offenders

As with adults, the majority of youths involved in crime are males. Over three-quarters (77%) of youth charged with a Criminal Code offence in 2000 were male and 23% were female (Logan, 2001). Similarly, eight in ten youth court cases in 2000/01 involved males (deSouza, 2002). Correctional admission data also reflect this pattern in that 78% of youths admitted to all correctional programs were male.

Figure 2

Sentenced males were older than females in 2000/01



Note: Excludes Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick and Quebec.

Source: Youth Custody and Community Services Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics.

Males in custody tend to be older than females (Figure 2). In 2000/01, 58% of male youths admitted to remand were aged 16 years or older compared to 44% for females.⁷ Similarly, male offenders aged 16 or older accounted for 64% of sentenced custody admissions compared to 45% of female offenders.⁸ These age distributions were consistent among the jurisdictions, with the exception of Manitoba, Nunavut, Yukon and Nova Scotia, where the ages of males and females were evenly distributed.

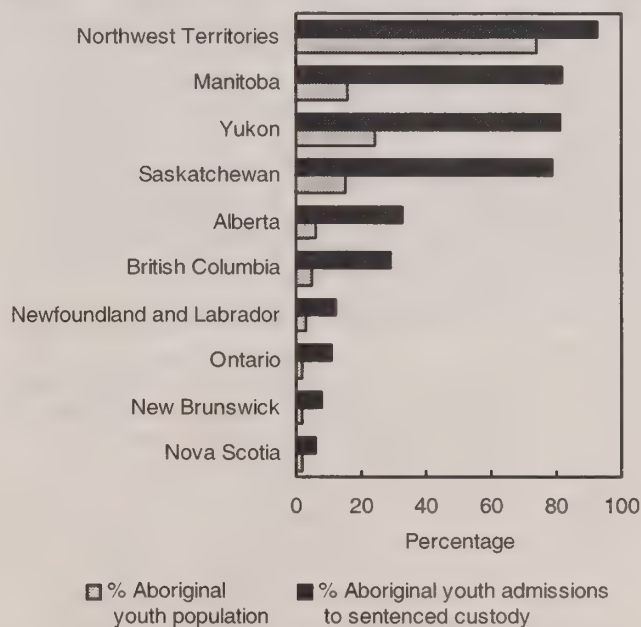
Aboriginal youth over-represented in remand, secure and open custody

While Aboriginal youth constituted 5% of the youth population, they accounted for approximately one in four admissions to remand (26%) and sentenced custody (24%) in 2000/01. This over-representation is particularly evident among the western provinces (Figure 3). Manitoba showed the largest differences between the Aboriginal youth population (16%) and Aboriginal sentenced custody admissions (82%) as well as remand admissions (70%).

Of the total admissions for females, Aboriginal youth constituted 33% of remand admissions and 30% of admissions to sentenced custody. The proportions of Aboriginal males admitted to remand and to sentenced custody were 25% and 24% respectively.

Figure 3

Proportion of sentenced males were older than females in 2000/01



Note: Excludes Prince Edward Island, Quebec and Nunavut.

Source: Youth Custody and Community Services Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics. Statistics Canada, 1996 Census: Aboriginal population.

⁷ Excludes New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island, Quebec, partial Ontario data, and Saskatchewan.

⁸ Excludes New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island, and Quebec.

Remand Admissions

In 2000/01, there were 9,362 remand admissions in 11 jurisdictions, accounting for approximately six in ten custody admissions (Table 1).⁹ Large proportions of custody admissions to remand were in Manitoba (82%), British Columbia (62%) and Alberta (63%). In contrast, 16% of custodial admissions in the Northwest Territories and 32% in New Brunswick were admissions to remand.

In 2000/01, among the 11 reporting jurisdictions, the rate of remand was 65 admissions per 10,000 youth population (Table 2).¹⁰ In comparison to the previous year, the number of remand admissions declined by 6%. The highest rates of remand admissions were reported in Yukon and Manitoba (at 212 and 210 per 10,000 youth respectively); the lowest rate was reported in New Brunswick (32 per 10,000 youth).

In 2000/01, property offences (break and enter, theft over \$5,000, theft \$5,000 and under, other property and possession of stolen goods) accounted for the highest proportion of remand admissions (33%), followed by violent crimes (common assault, robbery, and sexual assault) (29%), other Criminal Code (17%) and YOA offences (13%) (Table 4).¹¹ In British Columbia, the YOA offence category represented the largest proportion of remand admissions (36%). (Please note that admissions are calculated according to the most serious offence and, as such, the effect of less serious offences is underestimated.)

Eight in ten remand releases occurred within one month of admission

A youth may be released from remand for a number of reasons that include: a transfer into another form of supervision (i.e., open custody, secure custody, probation), a court finding of not guilty, or alternatively, a court finding of guilty where the court has considered the time spent in remand as sufficient punishment for the crime (time already served). In 2000/01, among eight reporting jurisdictions¹² over one-half (54%) of youth remand releases occurred within one week of admission, 30% spent between one week and one month in custody on remand, 15% served between one to six months, and less than one percent of remand releases took place after a period of more than 6 months (Table 5).

Admissions to Secure and Open Custody

In 2000/01, there were 14,909 admissions to secure and open custody among 13 reporting jurisdictions, representing 60 admissions for every 10,000 youth (Tables 1 and 2). Secure custody admissions accounted for 47% of sentenced custody admissions compared to 53% for open custody.

At the national level, the secure custody admission rate was 28 admissions per 10,000 youth in 2000/01 compared to a rate of 32 per 10,000 youth for open custody (Table 3). In comparison to the previous year, the rate of open custody admissions decreased by 5%, while the secure custody rate decreased by 7%. While the highest rates were reported in the territories, there was a great deal of variation among the provinces. Secure custody admission rates ranged from 3 admissions per 10,000 youth in Nova Scotia to 39 per 10,000 youth in Newfoundland and Labrador. Among the provinces, open custody admissions rates ranged from a low of 17 per

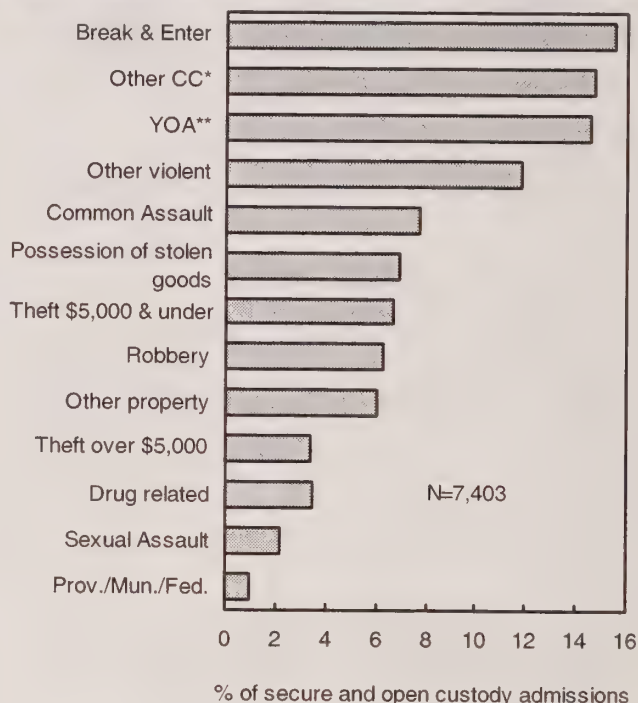
10,000 youth in Prince Edward Island and Quebec to a high of 46 per 10,000 youth in Ontario.¹³

Four in ten custody sentences for property offences

In 2000/01, property offences accounted for 39% of sentenced admissions to programs of secure and open custody. Violent offences represented 27%, YOA offences, 14%; Other Criminal Code offences, 15%; drug-related offences, 3%; and other offences, 1%.¹⁴ (Figure 4 and Table 4)

Figure 4

Break and Enter, Other Criminal Code and YOA offences account for one half of admissions to secure and open custody



* Other CC includes offences such as mischief, failure to appear and disorderly conduct.
 ** YOA includes offences such as failure to comply with a disposition and contempt against youth court.

Note: Excludes Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick, Quebec, and Saskatchewan, while partial data were reported by Ontario.

Source: Youth Custody and Community Services Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics.

⁹ Excludes partial Ontario data and Saskatchewan.

¹⁰ Excludes Ontario, Saskatchewan, and Nunavut.

¹¹ Excludes Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick, Quebec, Ontario, and Saskatchewan.

¹² Excludes Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick, Quebec, Ontario, and Saskatchewan.

¹³ Note that the administration of youth justice and the way secure and open custody facilities are used varies widely across the country. In addition, these youth may have been moved from remand custody. Refer to Methodology section for a more detailed explanation.

¹⁴ Excludes Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick, Quebec, and Saskatchewan, while partial data was reported by Ontario.

Yukon reported the lowest proportion of sentenced custody admissions for violent offences (15%) while Manitoba reported the highest (42%). Admissions to sentenced custody for property offence admissions ranged from 26% in British Columbia to 47% in Newfoundland and Labrador. The highest proportion of sentenced admissions for YOA offences (e.g. failure to comply with a disposition) – the highest proportion, 45% was reported in British Columbia. In contrast, Ontario (4%)¹⁵, Manitoba (6%), Alberta (13%) and Newfoundland and Labrador (15%).

Sentence Length

When examining sentence lengths, it is important to distinguish between sentence lengths on admission and those on release. While a youth court judge stipulates the period of custody, events such as appeals, reviews, escapes, and the administration of additional sentences may influence the amount of time served. Time served on release may differ from time ordered for these reasons. In addition, correctional service officials may move the young offender from secure custody to open custody, in compliance with jurisdictional procedures.

Half of releases from sentenced custody occur within one month

In 2000/01, there were 12,295 releases from sentenced custody of which 5,463 were secure custody releases and 6,832 were open custody releases as reported by nine jurisdictions. Forty-eight percent of releases from sentenced custody occurred within one month of admission or less, 44% between one and 6 months, 7% within 6 months to 1 year, and 1% after more than 1 year (Table 6) among the jurisdictions reporting data on duration.

The proportion of individuals with a duration of time served between 1 month to 6 months increased, from 36% in 1999/00 to 44% in 2000/01. The percentage of releases with a duration of less than 1 month decreased from 53% in 1999/00 to 48% in 2000/01, and those of 6 months or greater decreased from 11% to 8%. This change can be largely attributed to Ontario, as the remaining jurisdictions reported relatively little change proportionately. A four-year analysis of distributions indicates slight variations in durations of time served for sentenced custody releases (Table 6).

PROBATION ADMISSIONS

Over half of the correctional caseload is probation

In 2000/01, there were 36,509 admissions to probation among 11 reporting jurisdictions.¹⁶ Probation represented 54% of correctional service program admissions among the jurisdictions¹⁷ reporting all admission types (Table 1). Probation admissions varied from 32% of admissions in Manitoba to 66% in Nova Scotia.

Despite a noticeable decrease in the rate of custody admissions, the rate of youth probation admissions per 10,000 youth declined slightly by 1% (Table 2). Overall, the probation admission rate has been decreasing since 1997/98. In 1997/98, the rate was 155 per 10,000 youth as compared to 149 per 10,000 youth in 2000/01. Among reporting jurisdictions, large decreases in the rate of youth probation admissions were reported in Yukon (40%), Nova Scotia, and New Brunswick (16% each) and Prince Edward Island (8%). The remaining jurisdictions experienced only minor changes. Regarding offences, 48% of probation admissions had property offences as the most serious offence. Violent offences accounted for 32% of probation admissions; other types of Criminal Code offences (e.g. failure to appear and disorderly conduct), 10%; YOA offences, 3%; drug-related offences, 5% and other offences, 2% (Table 4). Similar to previous years, the specific offences that predominated were common assault, theft of goods valued at \$5,000 and under, and break and enter (14% each).

In 2000/01, the majority of probation admissions involved males (77%). Similar to custody, male probationers tended to be older than female probationers – 59% of males on probation were 16 years and older whereas 48% of females were 16 years or older. Also similar to custody, Aboriginal youth were over-represented with respect to probation, again particularly among the western provinces. However, the degree of Aboriginal over-representation within probation was slightly lower compared with custody. In 2000/01, of the nine jurisdictions that reported both probation and sentenced custody data, Aboriginal youth accounted for 22% of probation admissions compared with 24% of sentenced custody admissions and 26% of remand admissions.¹⁸ In these jurisdictions, Aboriginal youth accounted for only 5% of the general youth population.

Most young offenders on probation for more than six months

The majority of probation admissions are for terms longer than six months. For most reporting jurisdictions, the median probation sentence for young offenders was one year (Figure 5). In 2000/01, 14% of probation admissions were for terms of 6 months or less, 45% were greater than six months to one year, 36% for one to two years, and only 6% were longer than two years.

From 1997/98 to 2000/01 the proportion of terms of six months or less decreased from 17% in 1997/98 to 14% in 2000/01. The proportion of probationers serving terms greater than six months to one year has also decreased (51% in 1997/98 to 45% in 2000/01). Probation admissions for terms longer than one year have however, increased by 11% (31% in 1997/98 to 42% in 2000/01).

¹⁵ Partial data reported by Ontario.

¹⁶ Excludes Northwest Territories and Nunavut.

¹⁷ Excludes Ontario, Saskatchewan, Northwest Territories and Nunavut.

¹⁸ Newfoundland, Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, Ontario, Saskatchewan, Alberta, British Columbia and Yukon reported both custody (secure/open) and probation admissions by Aboriginal status.

Figure 5

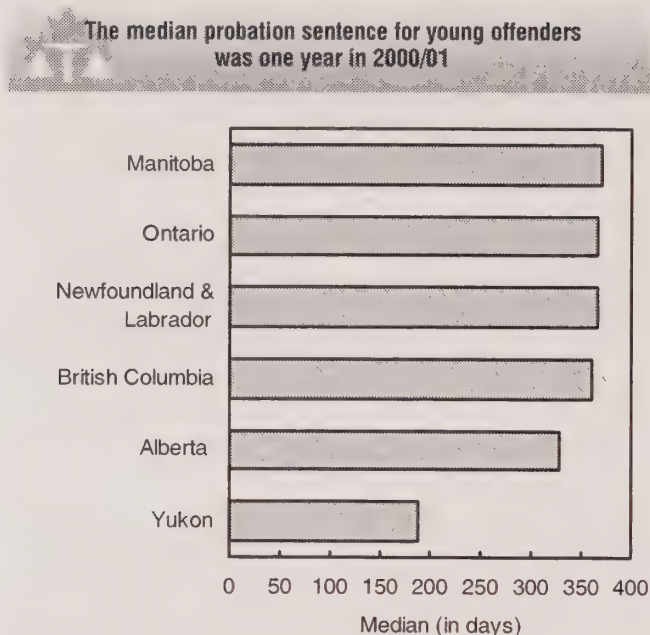
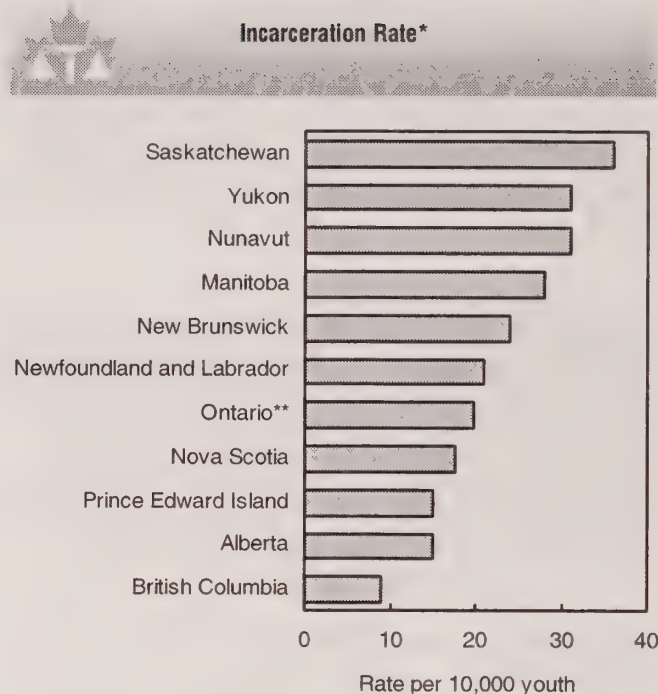


Figure 6



Note: Excludes Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Quebec, Saskatchewan, Northwest Territories, Nunavut, while partial Ontario data was reported.

Source: Youth Custody and Community Services Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics.

* Incarceration rate: average daily count of young offenders in custody per 10,000 youth population.

** Ontario remand/temporary detention data for 12-15 year olds are not available.

Note: Excludes Quebec, and Northwest Territories.

Source: Corrections Key Indicator Report for Adults and Young Offenders, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics.

DAILY WORKLOAD

Data on daily workload provide a different view of the youth correctional system compared with admission data. While admission data represent the movement of young offenders in and out of supervision (or case-flow), average daily counts (or caseload) provide workload data, which measure the volume of offenders held in custody or on probation on an average day. Although the average daily counts are more general in nature, they are an important and well-established management tool for correctional service officials. The average daily counts are also typically used to calculate the incarceration and probation rates. A short-term trend analysis of these counts is possible since these data have been supplied to the CCJS since 1994.

Among the reporting jurisdictions, the daily average number of young probationers ranged from five to eleven times higher than the average number of young offenders in custody (Table 7). This finding is not unexpected given that youth are more likely to be sentenced to probation than to custody, and youth on probation tend to receive longer terms than those sentenced to custody.

Incarceration rates¹⁹ and probation rates²⁰ varied across the country in 2000/01. These figures reflect the number of young offenders in custody or on probation on an average day in relation to the number of youth in the population. In British Columbia, for example, there were 9 young offenders in custody for every 10,000 youth, while the rate in Saskatchewan was

36 per 10,000 youth (Figure 6). Provincial probation rates ranged from 99 young offenders per 10,000 youth in British Columbia to 225 per 10,000 in Yukon.

Custody: Short-term trends²¹

From 1996/97 to 2000/01, incarceration rates declined in all reporting jurisdictions except for New Brunswick, which reported an increase of 2%. Prince Edward Island reported the largest decrease (55%) from 32.8 young offenders in custody per 10,000 youth in 1996/97 to 14.8 in 2000/01. In contrast, the Saskatchewan incarceration rate decreased marginally, from a rate of 37.3 to 35.8 per 10,000 during these years. Noteworthy decreases were also reported in the Northwest Territories (49%), Yukon (42%), Alberta (33%), and British Columbia (29%).

Probation: Short-term trends²²

From 1996/97 to 2000/01, most jurisdictions showed decreases in youth probation rates. Of the nine reporting jurisdictions, the largest declines occurred in Yukon (52%), Prince Edward

¹⁹ Excludes partial Ontario remand data for 12-15 year olds and Quebec.

²⁰ Excludes New Brunswick, Northwest Territories, and Nunavut.

²¹ Excludes New Brunswick, Quebec, and partial Ontario data (for young persons 12-15 years of age) from remand data.

²² Excludes New Brunswick, Quebec, Northwest Territories from 1997/98 to 2000/01, and Nunavut.

Island (46%), and British Columbia (31%). In contrast, Saskatchewan reported a 4% increase in the probation rate during this period.

METHODOLOGY

This *Juristat* contains data collected from three different sources, the Youth Custody and Community Services (YCCS) survey, Alternative Measures (AM) survey, and the Key Indicator Report. The YCCS survey maintains both micro and aggregate level data, which are collected by provincial and territorial agencies responsible for the delivery of youth corrections and young offender programs. These data are collected annually on a fiscal year basis (April 1 to March 31). These data have been available since 1997-98. In 2000/01, Newfoundland and Alberta provided case-specific information to the YCCS (i.e., micro-level data) that were then used to generate the aggregate level admission counts reported in this *Juristat*. These respondents represent roughly 13% of the national caseload. The remainder of reporting jurisdictions provided aggregate counts.²³ Because of the limited coverage provided by the case-specific survey, analysis in this report has been limited to aggregated data.

Jurisdictions providing aggregate data complete a set of standard data tables, which are used to compile national data on admissions and releases. Microdata, on the other hand, are extracted directly from provincial operational systems, through the use of interface programs. The interface programs are designed to extract specific data elements and values identified in the survey's National Data Requirements developed by provincial/territorial and federal members of the National Justice Statistics Initiative. Micro data reported by the jurisdictions are centrally processed, edited, and loaded onto the YCCS database. These data are later used to generate admission counts, which are tabulated in the aggregate standard data tables. In 2000/01, YCCS data for Alberta and Newfoundland and Labrador have been tabulated from micro data based on standardized definitions. Accordingly, YCCS units of count, while based on standardized definitions, may differ from those generated locally (i.e., similar units of count generated by Alberta Corrections are approximately 18% higher). As such, caution should be used when comparing YCCS statistics against similar statistics produced by these jurisdictions.

It is important to note that for both aggregate and micro level respondents, once the data are processed and compiled into the standard data tables, these data are analysed and returned to the jurisdictions for final verification. The participation of the jurisdictions in the survey process is vital to ensuring data quality and understanding the differences in provincial and territorial youth justice/correctional systems.

The Alternative Measures (AM) survey is conducted in conjunction with the YCCS survey. The AM survey provides statistical information on the administration of alternative measures in Canada. The survey collects aggregate data. The unit of analysis that is used for the Alternative Measures survey is the case. A case refers to one person's activity in

Unit of analysis

Admissions data measure the movement of young offenders through admissions to different types of supervision. The following example provides an illustration of how admissions for one young offender are calculated by the YCCS survey. Where a youth has been denied bail and held in custody until he or she is sentenced to serve a term of secure custody, followed by a term of open custody and probation, the YCCS counts:

e.g. remand + secure + open + probation (all served consecutively)

admissions: 1 admission to remand
1 admission to secure custody
1 admission to open custody
1 admission to probation.

It is also important to point out that youth transferred from one facility to another while still under the same level of supervision are not counted as a new admission. As well, new admission counts exclude young offenders placed in secure custody as transfers from open custody facilities. These "administrative" transfers are for a short period of time, not to exceed 15 days, and are authorized by a senior correctional official. In addition, youth returning from a period of temporary absence are not included as a new admission.

the alternative program for one incident. An incident is a specific event wherein a person is alleged to have committed one or more related offences with or without victims. "Related" refers to a sequence of criminal actions that occur at the same location or where one action led to the occurrence of another. The focus of this survey is on cases for which an agreement for alternative measures has been reached (i.e., when a person agrees to participate in the alternative measures process, according to the conditions and obligations contained therein. The processes and compilation of AM data are identical to those of the YCCS survey.

Data from the Key Indicator Report measure the average counts of youth in custody (remand, secure, and open) and on probation. The data are collected annually on a fiscal year basis (April 1 to March 31). Jurisdictions submit monthly counts in aggregate format, which are compiled by Correctional Services Program staff. Average counts include all youth on remand and temporary detention, sentenced offenders and other young offenders who are legally required to be at a facility and are present at the time the count is taken by correctional facility officials. Average counts for young offenders on probation include young offenders on supervised probation at the end of the month.

The YCCS standard data tables and the Key Indicator Report data are available in the *Youth Custody and Community Services Data Tables, 2000/01* publication (catalogue number 85-226-XIE).

²³ Includes Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Quebec, Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, British Columbia, Yukon, Northwest Territories and Nunavut.

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Table 1

Youth Correctional Service Admissions, 1999/00 and 2000/01

| | Remand ¹ | | | Sentenced custody ² | | | Probation ³ | | |
|------------------------------------|---------------------|--------------|-----------|--------------------------------|---------------|-----------|------------------------|---------------|-----------|
| | 1999/00 | 2000/01 | % change | 1999/00 | 2000/01 | % change | 1999/00 | 2000/01 | % change |
| TOTAL | 9,933 | 9,362 | -6 | 15,729 | 14,909 | -6 | 35,681 | 36,509 | -1 |
| Newfoundland and Labrador | 177 | 211 | 19 | 358 | 329 | -8 | 631 | 627 | -1 |
| Prince Edward Island | 37 | 47 | 27 | 50 | 54 | 8 | 167 ^r | 154 | -8 |
| Nova Scotia | 316 | 303 | -4 | 409 | 369 | -10 | 1,545 | 1,290 | -17 |
| New Brunswick ⁴ | 263 | 194 | -26 | 452 | 411 | -9 | 862 | 718 | -17 |
| Quebec | 2,271 | 2,021 | -11 | 2,343 | 2,044 | -13 | 8,036 | 7,867 | -2 |
| Ontario ⁵ | .. | .. | ... | 7,538 ^r | 7,618 | 1 | 16,267 | 16,634 | 2 |
| Manitoba | 1,858 | 2,077 | 12 | 579 | 478 | -17 | .. | 1,183 | ... |
| Saskatchewan | . | . | ... | 645 | 614 | -5 | 1,634 | 1,507 | -8 |
| Alberta | 2,484 | 2,406 | -3 | 1,643 | 1,429 | -13 | 3,115 | 3,139 | 1 |
| British Columbia | 2,377 | 1,946 | -18 | 1,352 | 1,209 | -11 | 3,329 | 3,333 | 0 |
| Yukon | 77 | 63 | -18 | 77 ^r | 53 | -31 | 95 ^r | 57 | -40 |
| Northwest Territories ⁶ | 73 | 39 | -47 | 283 | 206 | -27 | .. | .. | ... |
| Nunavut | .. | 55 | ... | .. | 95 | ... | .. | .. | ... |

. Figures not available for any reference period

.. Figures not available for any specific reference period

... Figures not applicable

^r revised

Note: YCCS data for Alberta and Newfoundland and Labrador have been tabulated from microdata based on standardized definitions that may differ from those being applied locally. Accordingly, YCCS units of count, while based on standardized definitions, may differ from those generated locally (i.e., similar units of count generated by Alberta Corrections are approximately 18% higher). As such, caution should be used when comparing statistics for these jurisdictions against similar statistics having been generated locally. Percent change calculations are subject to rounding.

¹ Remand counts in 2000/01 exclude Ontario, and Saskatchewan; the percent change over the previous year for total admissions excludes these jurisdictions and Nunavut.

² Sentenced admission counts in 1999/00 exclude Nunavut; the percent change over the previous year for total admissions excludes this jurisdiction.

³ Probation counts in 2000/01 exclude the Northwest Territories and Nunavut; the percent change over the previous year also excludes these jurisdictions and Manitoba.

⁴ Due to information system problems, all New Brunswick figures in 1999/00 are projections based on six months of actual data.

⁵ Ontario provided revised data counts for 1999/00. Partial remand data (4,927 in 1999/00 and 5,693 in 2000/01) have been excluded from the totals. Remand data for those 12-15 years of age are unavailable.

⁶ Northwest Territories data prior to 1999/00 may not be compared with the current year due to the creation of Nunavut on April 1, 1999. The 1999/00 data include an unknown number of transfers from Nunavut. This change influences frequency count, rates and trend analysis.

Source: Youth Custody and Community Services Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics.

Table 2

Youth Correctional Service Admission Rates per 10,000 youth, 1999/00 and 2000/01

| | Remand ¹ rate per 10,000 youth* | | | Sentenced custody ² rate per 10,000 youth* | | | Probation ³ rate per 10,000 youth* | | |
|------------------------------------|---|-----------|-----------|--|-----------|-----------|--|------------|-----------|
| | 1999/00 | 2000/01 | % change | 1999/00 | 2000/01 | % change | 1999/00 | 2000/01 | % change |
| TOTAL | 69 | 65 | -6 | 64 | 60 | -6 | 152 | 149 | -1 |
| Newfoundland and Labrador | 37 | 45 | 23 | 74 | 71 | -5 | 131 | 135 | 3 |
| Prince Edward Island | 30 | 38 | 27 | 40 | 44 | 8 | 135 ^r | 125 | -7 |
| Nova Scotia | 42 | 40 | -4 | 54 | 48 | -10 | 203 | 169 | -16 |
| New Brunswick ⁴ | 43 | 32 | -25 | 74 | 68 | -8 | 141 | 119 | -16 |
| Quebec | 41 | 37 | -10 | 43 | 38 | -11 | 146 | 145 | 0 |
| Ontario ⁵ | .. | .. | ... | 82 ^r | 82 | 0 | 182 ^r | 179 | -1 |
| Manitoba | 189 | 210 | 11 | 59 | 48 | -18 | .. | 120 | .. |
| Saskatchewan | . | . | ... | 67 | 64 | -4 | 170 | 158 | -7 |
| Alberta | 94 | 91 | -4 | 62 | 54 | -14 | 118 | 118 | 0 |
| British Columbia | 75 | 61 | -18 | 42 | 38 | -10 | 104 | 105 | 0 |
| Yukon | 259 | 212 | -18 | 259 ^r | 178 | -31 | 320 ^r | 192 | -40 |
| Northwest Territories ⁶ | 183 | 97 | -47 | 711 | 511 | -28 | .. | .. | ... |
| Nunavut | .. | 166 | ... | .. | 286 | ... | .. | .. | ... |

. Figures not available for any reference period

.. Figures not available for any specific reference period

... Figures not applicable

^r revised

Note: Percent change calculations are subject to rounding.

* Rate calculations based on postcensal estimates as of July 1st, 2000, Demography Division, Census and Demographic Statistics Branch, Statistics Canada.

¹ Remand counts in 2000/01 exclude Ontario, and Saskatchewan; the percent change over the previous year for total admissions excludes these jurisdictions and Nunavut.

² Sentenced admission counts in 1999/00 exclude Nunavut; the percent change over the previous year for total admissions excludes this jurisdiction.

³ Probation counts in 2000/01 exclude the Northwest Territories and Nunavut; the percent change over the previous year also excludes these jurisdictions and Manitoba.

⁴ Due to information system problems, all New Brunswick figures in 1999/00 are projections based on six months of actual data.

⁵ Ontario provided revised data counts for 1999/00. Partial remand data (4,927 in 1999/00 and 5,693 in 2000/01) have been excluded from the totals. Remand data for those 12-15 years of age are unavailable.

⁶ Northwest Territories data prior to 1999/00 may not be compared with the current year due to the creation of Nunavut on April 1, 1999. The 1999/00 data include an unknown number of transfers from Nunavut. This change influences frequency counts, rate and trend analysis.

Source: Youth Custody and Community Services Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics and Census and Demographic Statistics Branch, Statistics Canada.

Table 3

Youth Correctional Service Admissions to Secure and Open Custody, 1999/00 and 2000/01

| | Secure custody | | | | | | Open custody | | | | | |
|------------------------------------|--------------------|--------------|-----------|--------------------------|-----------|-----------|--------------------|--------------|-----------|--------------------------|-----------|-----------|
| | Admissions* | | | Rates per 10,000 youth** | | | Admissions* | | | Rates per 10,000 youth** | | |
| | 1999/00 | 2000/01 | % change | 1999/00 | 2000/01 | % change | 1999/00 | 2000/01 | % change | 1999/00 | 2000/01 | % change |
| TOTAL | 7,426 | 6,958 | -7 | 30 | 28 | -7 | 8,303 | 7,951 | -5 | 34 | 32 | -5 |
| Newfoundland and Labrador | 160 | 183 | 14 | 33 | 39 | 18 | 198 | 146 | -26 | 41 | 31 | -24 |
| Prince Edward Island | 30 | 33 | 10 | 24 | 27 | 13 | 20 | 21 | 5 | 16 | 17 | 6 |
| Nova Scotia | 45 | 25 | -44 | 6 | 3 | -50 | 364 | 344 | -5 | 48 | 45 | -6 |
| New Brunswick ¹ | 269 | 221 | -18 | 44 | 37 | -16 | 183 | 190 | 4 | 30 | 31 | 3 |
| Quebec | 1,285 | 1,111 | -14 | 23 | 21 | -9 | 1,058 | 933 | -12 | 19 | 17 | -11 |
| Ontario ² | 3,350 ^r | 3,359 | 0 | 37 ^r | 36 | -3 | 4,188 ^r | 4,259 | 2 | 46 ^r | 46 | 0 |
| Manitoba | 202 | 168 | -17 | 21 | 17 | -19 | 377 | 310 | -18 | 38 | 31 | -18 |
| Saskatchewan | 301 | 285 | -5 | 31 | 30 | -3 | 344 | 329 | -4 | 36 | 34 | -6 |
| Alberta | 1,005 | 845 | -16 | 38 | 32 | -16 | 638 | 584 | -8 | 24 | 22 | -8 |
| British Columbia | 649 | 560 | -14 | 20 | 18 | -10 | 703 | 649 | -8 | 22 | 20 | -9 |
| Yukon | 36 | 26 | -28 | 121 | 87 | -28 | 41 ^r | 27 | -34 | 138 | 91 | -34 |
| Northwest Territories ³ | 94 | 96 | ... | 236 | 238 | 1 | 189 | 110 | -42 | 475 ^r | 273 | -43 |
| Nunavut | .. | 46 | ... | .. | 139 | ... | .. | 49 | ... | .. | 148 | ... |

.. Figures not available for any specific reference period

... Figures not applicable

^r revised

Note: Percent change calculations are subject to rounding.

* Sentenced admission counts and rates in 2000/01; the total percent change over the previous year excludes Ontario, the Northwest Territories and Nunavut.

** Rate calculations based on postcensal estimates as of July 1st, 2000, Demography Division, Census and Demographic Statistics Branch, Statistics Canada.

¹ Due to information system problems, all New Brunswick figures in 1999/00 reflect projections based on six months of actual data.

² Due to a change in local data extraction methods caution should be exercised when making comparisons between data in this report and prior publications. Ontario provided revised data for 1999/00.

³ Northwest Territories data prior to 1999/00 may not be compared with the current year due to the creation of Nunavut on April 1, 1999. The 1999/00 data include an unknown number of transfers from Nunavut. This change influences frequency counts, rates and trend analysis.

Source: Youth Custody and Community Services Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics and Census and Demographic Statistics Branch, Statistics Canada.

Table 4

Custody Admissions and Probation by Most Serious Offence, 2000/01

| Type of Offence | Sentenced Custody 100% | Secure Custody ¹ 100% | Open Custody ² 100% | Remand ³ 100% | Probation ⁴ 100% |
|----------------------------|------------------------------|--|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Break and enter | 15 | 14 | 17 | 12 | 14 |
| Other Criminal Code* | 15 | 17 | 13 | 17 | 10 |
| YOA** | 14 | 15 | 14 | 13 | 3 |
| Other violent | 12 | 12 | 12 | 12 | 13 |
| Common assault | 8 | 8 | 8 | 7 | 14 |
| Possession of stolen goods | 7 | 7 | 6 | 8 | 7 |
| Theft \$5,000 & under | 7 | 5 | 8 | 7 | 14 |
| Robbery | 6 | 5 | 7 | 8 | 4 |
| Other property | 6 | 6 | 6 | 4 | 11 |
| Theft over \$5,000 | 4 | 5 | 3 | 2 | 1 |
| Drug related | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 5 |
| Sexual assault | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Prov./Mun./Fed. | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 |

* Other CC includes offences such as mischief, failure to appear and disorderly conduct.

** YOA includes offences such as failure to comply with a disposition and contempt against youth court.

¹ Secure custody percentages exclude Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick, Quebec, partial Ontario data, and Saskatchewan.

² Open custody percentages exclude Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick, Quebec, partial Ontario data, and Saskatchewan.

³ Remand percentages exclude Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick, Quebec, partial Ontario data, Saskatchewan and Yukon.

⁴ Probation percentages exclude New Brunswick, Quebec, partial Ontario data, Manitoba Saskatchewan, Northwest Territories and Nunavut.

Source: Youth Custody and Community Services Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics.

Table 5

Releases from Youth Custody by Time Served, 2000/01

| | Total (N) | Remand (%) | | | | |
|------------------------------------|-----------|--------------------|---------------------|----------------|---------------------|---------|
| | | 1 Week or less | > 1 week to 1 month | >1 to 6 months | >6 months to 1 year | >1 year |
| TOTAL reported | 13,477 | 54 | 30 | 15 | <1 | <1 |
| Newfoundland and Labrador | 209 | 46 | 34 | 18 | <1 | <1 |
| Prince Edward Island | .. | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Nova Scotia | 300 | 71 | 20 | 9 | 0 | 0 |
| New Brunswick | .. | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Quebec | .. | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Ontario ¹ | 6,668 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Manitoba | 1,726 | 52 | 28 | 20 | <1 | 0 |
| Saskatchewan | .. | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Alberta | 2,415 | 53 | 33 | 14 | <1 | <1 |
| British Columbia | 2,002 | 56 | 31 | 12 | <1 | <1 |
| Yukon | 63 | 54 | 33 | 13 | 0 | 0 |
| Northwest Territories ² | 39 | 28 | 51 | 21 | 0 | 0 |
| Nunavut | 55 | 27 | 29 | 44 | 0 | 0 |
| | Total (N) | Secure custody (%) | | | | |
| | | 1 Week or less | > 1 week to 1 month | >1 to 6 months | >6 months to 1 year | >1 year |
| TOTAL reported | 5,463 | 53 | 38 | 7 | 2 | <1 |
| Newfoundland and Labrador | 170 | 56 | 36 | 6 | 1 | 1 |
| Prince Edward Island | .. | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Nova Scotia | 15 | 27 | 33 | 40 | 0 | 0 |
| New Brunswick | .. | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Quebec | .. | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Ontario ¹ | 3,427 | 52 | 39 | 7 | 2 | <1 |
| Manitoba | 120 | 35 | 59 | 6 | 0 | 0 |
| Saskatchewan | 264 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| Alberta | 872 | 59 | 36 | 4 | 1 | <1 |
| British Columbia | 436 | 58 | 33 | 8 | 2 | 0 |
| Yukon | 31 | 65 | 23 | 6 | 6 | 0 |
| Northwest Territories ² | 82 | 17 | 40 | 29 | 13 | 0 |
| Nunavut | 46 | 26 | 30 | 24 | 15 | 4 |
| | Total (N) | Open custody (%) | | | | |
| | | 1 Week or less | > 1 week to 1 month | >1 to 6 months | >6 months to 1 year | >1 year |
| TOTAL reported | 6,832 | 44 | 49 | 6 | 1 | <1 |
| Newfoundland and Labrador | 152 | 17 | 71 | 10 | 2 | 0 |
| Prince Edward Island | .. | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Nova Scotia | 276 | 36 | 56 | 9 | 0 | 0 |
| New Brunswick | .. | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Quebec | .. | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Ontario ¹ | 4,381 | 47 | 47 | 5 | 1 | <1 |
| Manitoba | 224 | 28 | 67 | 6 | 0 | 0 |
| Saskatchewan | 289 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| Alberta | 626 | 29 | 61 | 9 | 1 | 0 |
| British Columbia | 709 | 62 | 30 | 6 | 2 | 0 |
| Yukon | 27 | 41 | 56 | 4 | 0 | 0 |
| Northwest Territories ² | 99 | 5 | 67 | 25 | 3 | 0 |
| Nunavut | 49 | 22 | 53 | 16 | 8 | 0 |

.. Figures not available for any reference period

... Figures not available for any specific reference period

... Figures not applicable

r revised

Note: Due to rounding, figures may not add to totals.

¹ Due to a change in local data extraction methods caution should be exercised when making comparisons between data in this report and prior publications. Remand/temporary detention releases for youth aged 12-15 years of age were unavailable.

² Northwest Territories data prior to 1999/00 may not be compared with the current year due to the creation of Nunavut on April 1, 1999. The 1999/00 data include an unknown number of transfers from Nunavut. This change influences frequency counts, rates and trend analysis.

Source: Youth Custody and Community Services Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics.

Table 6

Durations of Time Served, Open and Secure Custody Releases, 1997/98 to 2000/01

| | < 1 month | | | | 1 month to 6 months | | | |
|---------------------------|----------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|---------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| | 1997/98 | 1998/99 | 1999/00 | 2000/01 | 1997/98 | 1998/99 | 1999/00 | 2000/01 |
| % of Releases | | | | | | | | |
| Total | 45 | 45 | 53 | 48 | 45 | 45 | 36 | 44 |
| Newfoundland and Labrador | 31 | 34 | 33 | 38 | 55 | 53 | 54 | 53 |
| Prince Edward Island | 41 | 34 | 36 | .. | 51 | 46 | 45 | .. |
| Nova Scotia | 30 | 37 | 35 | 35 | 65 | 54 | 57 | 55 |
| New Brunswick | 30 | 30 | .. | .. | 52 | 52 | .. | .. |
| Quebec | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| Ontario | 47 | 47 | 57 | 49 | 44 | 43 | 31 | 43 |
| Manitoba | 20 | 24 | .. | 30 | 60 | 57 | .. | 64 |
| Saskatchewan | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| Alberta | 46 | 45 | 45 | 46 | 45 | 46 | 48 | 47 |
| British Columbia | 58 | 56 | 62 | 61 | 33 | 7 | 29 | 31 |
| Yukon | 54 | 57 | 57 | 53 | 40 | 7 | 38 | 38 |
| Northwest Territories | .. | .. | 12 | 10 | .. | .. | 51 | 55 |
| Nunavut | .. | .. | .. | 24 | .. | .. | .. | 42 |
| | | | | | | | | |
| | > 6 months to 1 year | | | | > 1 year | | | |
| | 1997/98 | 1998/99 | 1999/00 | 2000/01 | 1997/98 | 1998/99 | 1999/00 | 2000/01 |
| % of Releases | | | | | | | | |
| Total | 8 | 8 | 9 | 7 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 1 |
| Newfoundland and Labrador | 13 | 10 | 11 | 8 | 2 | 3 | 2 | 2 |
| Prince Edward Island | 6 | 15 | 16 | .. | 2 | 5 | 3 | .. |
| Nova Scotia | 5 | 9 | 8 | 10 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| New Brunswick | 15 | 14 | .. | .. | 4 | 4 | .. | .. |
| Quebec | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| Ontario | 7 | 7 | 9 | 6 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 1 |
| Manitoba | 15 | 15 | .. | 6 | 5 | 4 | .. | 0 |
| Saskatchewan | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| Alberta | 8 | 8 | 6 | 6 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| British Columbia | 8 | 7 | 8 | 6 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| Yukon | 5 | 7 | 3 | 5 | 1 | 0 | 3 | 3 |
| Northwest Territories | .. | .. | 30 | 27 | .. | .. | 7 | 8 |
| Nunavut | .. | .. | .. | 20 | .. | .. | .. | 14 |

.. Figures not available for any reference period

.. Figures not available for a specific reference period

Source: Youth Custody and Community Services Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics.

Table 7

Daily Number of Young Offenders in Custody and in Probation, 2000/01

| | Average daily custody counts | | | | Incarceration rate per 10,000 youth | Average probation count | |
|------------------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------------------------|------------------|---|-------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| | Secure custody | Open custody | Remand/ temporary detention | Total custody | | Total at month-end | Probation rate per 10,000 youth |
| Newfoundland and Labrador | 33 | 48 | 15 | 96 | 21 | 858 | 186 |
| Prince Edward Island ¹ | 5 | 10 | 3 | 18 | 15 | 176 | 143 |
| Nova Scotia | 20 | 97 | 21 | 138 | 18 | 1,105 | 145 |
| New Brunswick ² | 48 | 84 | 15 | 146 | 24 | .. | ... |
| Quebec | .. | .. | .. | .. | ... | .. | ... |
| Ontario | 684 | 810 | 357 | 1,851 | 20 | 18,737 | 201 |
| Manitoba | 67 | 105 | 104 | 276 | 28 | 1,998 | 202 |
| Saskatchewan | 161 | 101 | 79 | 341 | 36 | 1,810 | 190 |
| Alberta | 131 | 136 | 119 | 386 | 15 | 2,852 | 107 |
| British Columbia | 83 | 128 | 78 | 294 | 9 | 3,165 | 99 |
| Yukon | 2 | 5 | 3 | 10 | 31 | 67 | 225 |
| Northwest Territories ³ | 16 | 37 | 2 | 54 | 134 | .. | ... |
| Nunavut | 4 | 4 | 5 | 12 | 31 | .. | ... |

.. Figures not available for any specific reference period

... Figures not applicable

Note: Due to rounding, figures may not add to totals. These data represent yearly averages.

¹ Probation data include alternative measures.

² Secure custody counts are daily counts while open custody counts are weekly counts.

³ Northwest Territories data prior to 1999/00 may not be compared with the current year due to the creation of Nunavut on April 1, 1999.

The 1999/00 data include an unknown number of transfers from Nunavut. This change influences frequency counts, rates and trend analysis.

Source: Corrections Key Indicator Report for Adults and Young Offenders, 2000/01, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics.

Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics

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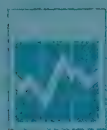
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PILOT ANALYSIS OF RECIDIVISM AMONG CONVICTED YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS - 1999/00

by Mikhail Thomas, Howard Hurley, and Craig Grimes

Highlights

- In 1999/00, 60% of the nearly 57,000 convicted offenders between 18 and 25 years of age had at least one previous conviction, either in adult criminal court or youth court. Among recidivists, 28% had one prior conviction and 72% had multiple prior convictions.
- Recidivist property offenders had the highest proportion of prior convictions of the same offence type with 80% having had at least one prior property crime conviction. Among this group, 37% had one prior property crime conviction, 21% had two earlier property crime convictions and 42% had three or more previous property crime convictions.
- As males are more likely to commit crimes, they are also more likely to be recidivists, with 62% having a prior conviction compared to only 48% of female offenders.
- The mean number of prior convictions for recidivists appeared to be associated with their age at the time of their first conviction. That is, the younger the offender at age of onset the larger the number of prior offences committed, even when controlling for years at risk. The mean number of prior convictions over a six year period for recidivists first convicted at age 19 was 4.0, compared with 7.7 for those first convicted at age 12.
- Among all recidivists, 37% had custody as the most serious sentence for the last conviction in 1999/00, compared to 12% of first-time offenders.
- Longer criminal histories tended to correspond with higher incarceration rates. Recidivists with multiple adult convictions had an incarceration rate nearly twice as high (41%) as recidivists with a single adult conviction (22%).
- Incarceration rates were higher for repeat offenders with an early age of first conviction. Recidivists who were 12 years of age at the time of their first conviction had an incarceration rate of 59%, compared to 35% for recidivists whose age of onset was 17 years of age.
- The mean length of a probation term for first-time offenders was 423 days and the mean length of probation term for recidivists was 466 days.



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Introduction

Recidivism - the extent to which offenders re-offend - is an important issue for policy-makers and the public. With the changes in crime rates in recent decades and increasing public concern about the personal and economic costs of crime, a better understanding of criminal behaviour and patterns of repeat offending is needed.

This report has several objectives. First, it attempts to gauge the prevalence of recidivism in young adults by examining the conviction histories of young adults convicted in Canadian criminal courts in 1999/2000 (See **Box 1**). Secondly, it examines the transition from youth to adult offending, including patterns of re-offending, and differences in conviction histories by age of onset. Finally, the impact of conviction history on court sentencing outcomes is examined.

Box 1: About the surveys

The analysis in this report is based on data from the Adult Criminal Court Survey (ACCS) and the Youth Court Survey (YCS). Data on federal statute charges completed in criminal court are collected by the Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics (CCJS) in collaboration with provincial and territorial government departments responsible for adult and youth criminal courts.

The primary unit of analysis is the case, which is defined as one or more charges against an individual that are disposed of in court on the same day. The ACCS includes cases involving persons 18 years or older at the time of the offence, youths who have been transferred to adult criminal court, and businesses. The YCS collects data from youth courts on persons aged 12 to 17 appearing on federal statute offences.

In 1999/00, adult criminal courts in seven provinces and two territories reported to the ACCS. Reporting jurisdictions include: Newfoundland and Labrador, Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, Quebec, Ontario, Saskatchewan, Alberta, Yukon, and the Northwest Territories. In addition, Alberta and the Yukon report Superior Court data to the ACCS. These jurisdictions represent approximately 80% of the national adult criminal court caseload. The adult court information presented in this report covers only these nine participating jurisdictions.

All youth courts in Canada representing all provinces and territories have reported data to the YCS since 1991/92. However, youth court data from New Brunswick, Manitoba, British Columbia, and Nunavut (1999/00) were excluded from the study since these jurisdictions did not report to the ACCS in 1999/00.

Scope of the Report

Recidivism can be studied using a variety of definitions, information sources, and methodological approaches. Researchers have measured recidivism using offender self-reports, arrest records, conviction records, and prison admission records. Depending on the objectives of the analysis, definitions of recidivism can count any subsequent offence, or count only a subsequent offence that is of comparable nature to the first offence (e.g., subsequent property crimes by a property offender). Some studies discount administrative offences, such as parole or probation violations.

In its broadest sense, recidivism is very difficult to measure because not all criminal offences come to the attention of the justice system. This makes it virtually impossible to construct a complete criminal history for all offenders (see **Box 2**). However, it is possible to measure the extent to which an offender's reversion to criminal behaviour results in one or more subsequent criminal court convictions.¹

This report examines the conviction profiles of persons, 18 to 25 years of age, who were found guilty of at least one charge in adult criminal court in fiscal year 1999/00. Recidivists were defined as those individuals with at least one prior conviction in criminal court, irrespective of the relationship between the current and prior conviction. To be defined as a recidivist, the offender would have at least one conviction in 1999/00, and at least one more conviction in an adult court since 1994/95 or youth courts

¹ This report studies the chronological sequence of convictions, and therefore does not necessarily relate to the chronological sequence of offences. Thus, in a small number of cases the offence date for which there is a conviction in 1999/00 could fall before the offence date of a prior conviction. For more information on data processing, please see the methodology section at the end of this report.

since 1991/92 within the same province or territory.² In so doing, it profiles a select group of individuals going through the court system at a given point in time. As a consequence of survey implementation dates, adult court convictions prior to 1994/95, and youth court convictions prior to 1991/92 were not available for analysis. Recidivism across provincial and territorial jurisdictions was not examined.

Box 2: Note on study limitations

There are three types of limitations the reader should consider when reviewing this report. The first is a consequence of the availability of historical data for analysis. The second deals with the fields used for matching offenders with prior convictions to create criminal histories, and the third is related to survey coverage. These limitations are briefly described below, and they are discussed more fully in the methodology section at the end of this report.

As a function of survey implementation dates, adult court data prior to 1994/95, and youth court data prior to 1991/92 were not available for analysis. This means that the earliest portion of conviction histories was not available for the oldest offenders covered by this study. As a consequence, the full extent of recidivism among these offenders is slightly understated.

Variations in the capture of an offender's name or date of birth in court information systems may result in multiple convictions against the same individual not obtaining a match, thereby producing an undercount of recidivists. Related to this point is the issue of inter-jurisdictional matching. Because of differences in reporting encrypted offender names, it is not possible to match offender records across all provinces and territories. Therefore, offenders convicted of offences in more than one province may not be identified as recidivists, resulting in a somewhat lower rate of recidivism than might otherwise be the case.

Finally, survey coverage issues will impact recidivism estimates. The absence of superior court data will result in a slight under estimate of recidivism because convictions in these courts are not available to construct complete criminal histories. Also, the absence of municipal court data in Quebec (representing approximately 20% of criminal court cases in that province) will result in a more substantial under estimate of recidivism in that province.

Because one of the key objectives of this report was to explore the relationship between youth and adult convictions, the focus has been restricted to adults who would have a chance of at least one youth court conviction during the study period. For this reason, analysis was confined to offenders between 18 and 25 years of age at the time of the offence.³ For example, a 25-year-old offender convicted in adult criminal court in 1999/00 would have been 17 years of age in 1991/92. If this person committed an offence as a 17 year-old, the case would have been heard in youth court in 1991/92 (the first year in which comprehensive YCS data were available for jurisdictions covered by this study), or later, thus ensuring that all such offenders would have a chance of a youth court conviction during the study period.

In 1999/00, a conviction was recorded in 228,267 of the 378,586 cases heard in the adult criminal courts of participating jurisdictions. Of these convictions, 176,345 related to unique convicted offenders. Information about these unique offenders was then matched with offender information in case files from previous years to construct individual criminal histories. (Figure 1).⁴

The reader should keep in mind that not all criminal offences committed result in a charge being laid, and approximately one-third of those heard in court do not result in conviction. Consequently, this study provides a conservative estimate of the extent of repeat criminal acts by offenders. Further, this study does not identify offenders with prior convictions who did not have at least one conviction in 1999/00. For example, it is possible for an offender to have multiple prior convictions without being convicted in 1999/00. This approach, then, is not a count of the number of recidivists across the history of the criminal court surveys. The approach presented in this Juristat is an examination of the offender profiles of individuals convicted in adult criminal court in 1999/00.

OVERVIEW

Offender Profile

In order to explore the basic characteristics of recidivists, this study employs an "offender profile" based on the frequency of prior convictions and whether such convictions occurred in adult criminal court or youth court. The following profiles are used throughout this report to describe the criminal histories of offenders convicted in the reference year.

First-time offender: The offender was convicted in adult criminal court in 1999/00, and had no known prior convictions either in adult criminal court or youth court in the same province or territory during the study period.

Recidivist: The offender was convicted in adult criminal court in 1999/00, and had at least one prior conviction in adult or youth court, or both, during the study period. Recidivists are divided between those with a single adult conviction and those with multiple adult or youth convictions.

Recidivists with a single adult conviction: The offender was convicted in adult criminal court in 1999/00, had no other known convictions in adult criminal court during the study period, but had at least one prior conviction in youth court during the study period. This category is sub-divided between offenders with only one prior youth court conviction and those with multiple prior youth convictions.⁵

Recidivists with multiple adult convictions: The offender was convicted in adult criminal court in 1999/00, and had at least one prior conviction in adult criminal court during the study period. This category is sub-divided into three groups: offenders with no known prior youth convictions; offenders with one prior youth conviction; and offenders with multiple prior youth convictions.

² Record matching has been restricted to prior convictions within the same province or territory because of jurisdictional differences in reporting the encrypted name of the offender. The name of the offender is encrypted using the Henri code in Quebec, and the Russell Soundex code elsewhere.

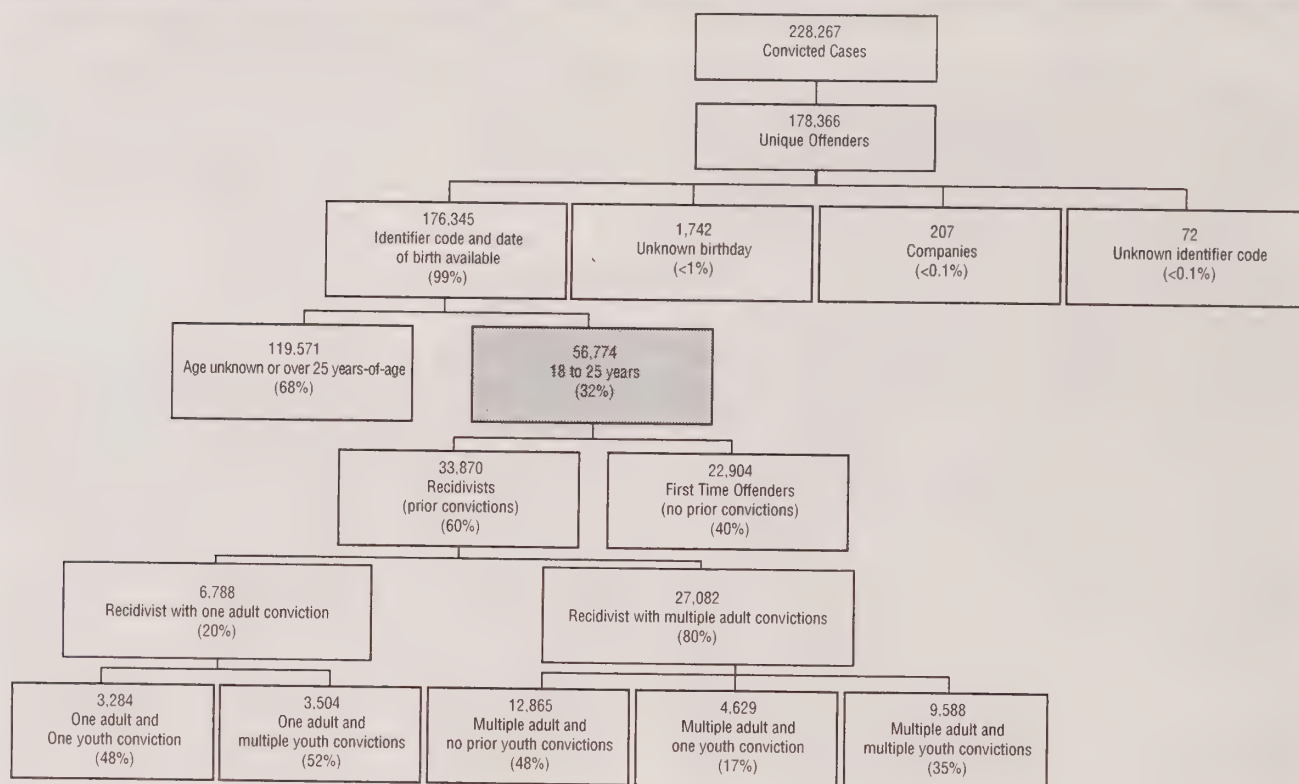
³ Complete adult conviction histories were not available for 24 and 25 year-olds in the study. For example, 25 year-old offenders convicted in 1999/00, would have been 20 years of age in 1994/95, and 24 year-old offenders in 1999/00 would have been 19 years of age in 1994/95. See methodology section for more information.

⁴ In the reference year there were 2,021 cases excluded from the study. See the Methodology section for more information on these cases, along with more details about the record matching process.

⁵ By definition, a recidivist requires at least one prior conviction. Since the only conviction in adult criminal court is the current conviction, a single adult conviction recidivist must have at least one prior conviction in youth court.

Figure 1

Profile of convicted cases in adult criminal court, Nine provinces and territories in Canada, 1999/00



Notes:

Excludes New Brunswick, Manitoba, British Columbia, and Nunavut.

Recidivists are defined as 18-25 year-olds convicted in 1999/00 who had one or more prior convictions.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Youth Court Survey, Adult Criminal Court Survey.

Recidivists represented 60% of convicted offenders

In 1999/00, 60% of convicted offenders in the provinces and territories covered by the study between 18 and 25 years of age had at least one previous conviction, either in adult criminal court or youth court. Among recidivists, 28% had one prior conviction and 72% had multiple prior convictions. The mean number of prior convictions for all recidivists was 4.2.

Theft was the most frequent offence for recidivist

In 1999/00, the most frequently occurring offences for recidivists were theft (10%), common assault (8%) and administration of justice (8%).⁶ With few exceptions, the distribution of offences was similar for recidivists and first-time offenders (offenders with no known prior convictions) (See **Table 1**). However, convictions for impaired driving offences were more common for first-time offenders (19%) than recidivists (7%) (**Figure 2**).

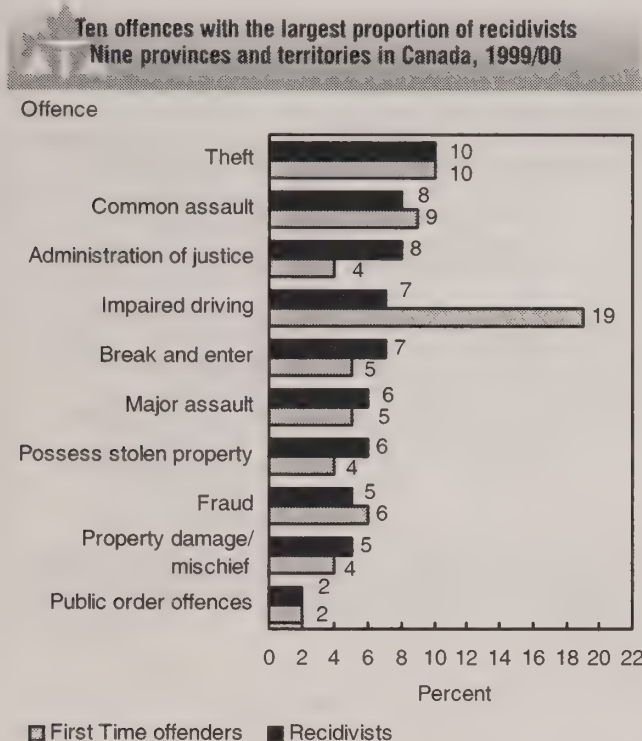
Recidivists convicted in property cases had the highest levels of prior convictions for offences of the same type

The vast majority (80%) of recidivists convicted in *Crimes Against Property* cases had at least one prior property crime conviction.⁷ Of these, 37% had one prior property crime conviction, 21% had two earlier property crime convictions and 42% had three or more previous property crime convictions.

⁶ The administration of justice offence category comprises offences such as failure to appear in court, and failure to comply with a probation order. For more information on the inclusion of administration of justice offences in this study, please refer to the methodology section at the end of this report.

⁷ The extent of prior property convictions, or other conviction types, may be understated because each case is represented by the most serious conviction. The number and type of less serious convictions in multiple conviction cases (38% in 1999/00) are not presented in this report. For more information on counting procedures, please see the methodology section at the end of this report.

Figure 2



Notes:

Excludes New Brunswick, Manitoba, British Columbia, and Nunavut.

Recidivists are defined as 18-25 year-olds convicted in 1999/00 who had one or more prior convictions.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Youth Court Survey, Adult Criminal Court Survey.

No other offence group had as large a proportion of recidivists with prior convictions for the same offence type. Recidivists convicted in 1999/00 for *Crimes Against the Person* offences comprised the second highest proportion (53%) of recidivists with at least one prior conviction in the same offence category.

Regardless of the offence category in which recidivists were convicted in 1999/00, *Crimes Against Property* represented an important component of their criminal history. More than one-third (38%) of all recidivists were convicted most recently of *Crimes Against Property*. At the same time, there was some evidence of consistency in repeat offence patterns. For example, 27% of recidivists convicted of *Criminal Code Traffic* offences in 1999/00 had a conviction for a *Criminal Code Traffic* offence as their most recent prior conviction (See **Table 2**).

Males were more likely to be recidivists

As males are more likely to commit crimes, they are also more likely to be recidivists, with 62% having a prior conviction compared to only 48% of female offenders. However, one factor that may lead to an underestimate of female recidivism relates to the practice of adopting a spouse's surname at marriage.⁸ Identifying recidivists in this study involved matching prior

conviction information using an encryption of the offender's name. If an offender's surname changed between convictions, then that individual may be incorrectly designated as two different first-time offenders, rather than as one offender with a prior conviction. The extent to which the study results are affected by changes in the legal name of offenders, male or female, is not currently known.⁹

Offence patterns similar for male and female offenders

The types of offences accounting for the largest percentage of convictions were similar for male and female recidivists, with three of the top five offences being the same. In 1999/00, the three most common offences for recidivists were theft, common assault and administration of justice violations. These offences accounted for 34% of convictions against female recidivists and 26% of convictions against male recidivists.

The fourth and fifth most common convictions were for fraud (9%) and major assault (6%) for female recidivists, while impaired driving (8%) and break and enter (7%) convictions were more common with male recidivists. It should also be noted that a majority of recidivists convicted of theft in 1999/00 had a prior theft conviction. This finding held true for both males (54%) and females (58%).

**Top Five Offences for Recidivists by Sex
Nine provinces and territories in Canada, 1999/00**

| Sex of Offender | Estimated % of Caseload |
|-----------------|-------------------------|
|-----------------|-------------------------|

Males

| | |
|---------------------------|----|
| Theft | 10 |
| Common assault | 8 |
| Administration of justice | 8 |
| Impaired driving | 8 |
| Break and enter | 7 |

Females

| | |
|---------------------------|----|
| Theft | 16 |
| Common assault | 9 |
| Administration of justice | 9 |
| Fraud | 9 |
| Major assault | 6 |

Notes:

Excludes New Brunswick, Manitoba, British Columbia, and Nunavut.

Recidivists are defined as 18-25 year-olds convicted in 1999/00 who had one or more prior convictions.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Youth Court Survey, Adult Criminal Court Survey.

⁸ The extent to which the recidivism rate is affected by the practice of adopting a spouse's surname after marriage is believed to be low, as approximately 15% of women between the ages of 15 and 24 are married.

⁹ The courts make every effort to identify the legal name of each accused appearing in court, and sometimes use an alias file to assist in this process. The aliases used are linked to the accused's legal name. The alias file can then be used to convert a known alias into the legal name of the accused for identification and processing.

The majority of recidivists had prior convictions in youth court

The majority of recidivists (62%) convicted in adult criminal court in 1999/00 had been previously convicted at least once in youth court.¹⁰ Among this group, 38% had one prior conviction in youth court while 62% had multiple prior youth convictions. This finding highlights the value of including youth court convictions in the construction of adult criminal history profiles. Overall, 20% of recidivists between 18 and 25 years of age would have been designated as first-time offenders had their prior youth convictions not been included.

Recidivists with multiple prior convictions had shorter time between convictions

As would be expected, the elapsed time between convictions was shortest for recidivists with the largest number of prior convictions and longest for recidivists with the fewest number of prior convictions.¹¹ Recidivists with multiple prior convictions had a mean elapsed time between convictions of 402 days. This was about one-third shorter than the elapsed reconviction time for offenders with a single adult conviction (1,177 days). Recidivist with one adult conviction and one prior youth conviction (i.e., the offender profile most closely resembling first-time offenders) had the longest mean time to reconviction (1,422 days).

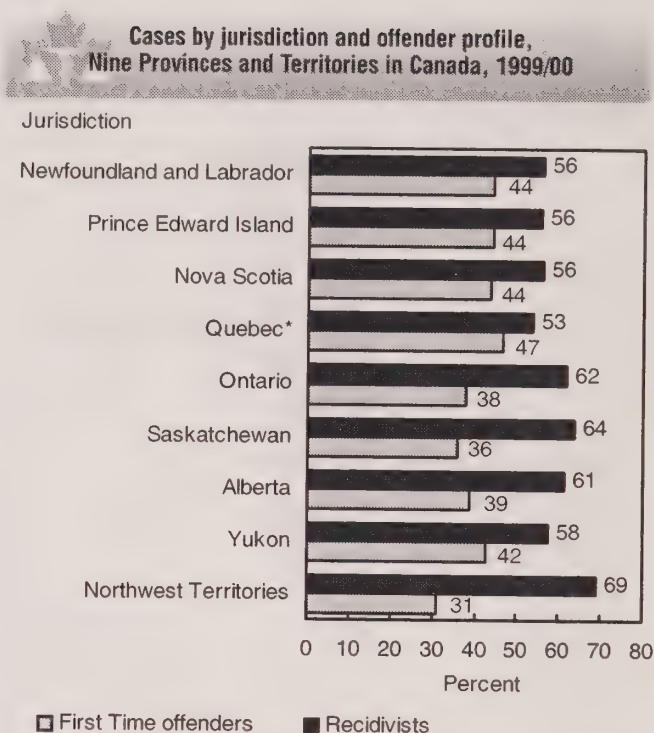
Little variation in recidivism rates among jurisdictions

Overall, recidivists represented 60% of offenders in the nine jurisdictions included in the study. The Northwest Territories had the highest proportion of offenders with repeat convictions (69%) but also had the lowest mean number of prior convictions for recidivists (3.1 mean prior convictions) (**Figure 3**). The highest mean number of prior convictions was in Alberta (4.7).

In Saskatchewan, 68% of recidivists had at least one prior conviction in youth court, which was the highest proportion of prior youth convictions in the nine jurisdictions studied. In comparison, Yukon was the only jurisdiction where a minority (49%) of recidivists had at least one prior conviction in youth court (See **Table 3**).

There are several factors that may influence crime rates, police charge rates, court workload, and conviction rates, and these factors will affect the interpretation of the variation in recidivism rates across jurisdictions. First, some jurisdictions use diversion and alternative measures to a greater extent, which affects the number and types of cases that proceed to court, especially youth court.¹² Second, the use of pre-charge screening by the Crown, which occurs in Quebec, may also affect the percentage of convictions.¹³ For example, prosecutors may not approve formal charges in jurisdictions where pre-charge screening is used (i.e., the charge does not appear in court), and the same information presented in court may result in charges stayed or withdrawn in jurisdictions without pre-charge screening. Third, survey coverage may have an impact on match rates and thereby prior conviction rates. Data on Criminal Code convictions from Quebec's municipal courts (representing approximately

Figure 3



Notes:

Includes cases completed in superior courts in Alberta and Yukon. Excludes New Brunswick, Manitoba, British Columbia, and Nunavut. Recidivists are defined as 18-25 year-olds convicted in 1999/00 who had one or more prior convictions.

* Information from Quebec's municipal courts (which account for approximately 20% of Criminal Code charges in that province) is not yet collected. The exclusion of convictions in these courts accounts, to some extent, for the lower recidivism rate calculated for Quebec.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Youth Court Survey, Adult Criminal Court Survey.

20% of Criminal Code charges) are not yet collected by the ACCS. The exclusion of convictions registered in these courts will contribute to the lower recidivism rate for that province. In contrast, the inclusion of convictions registered in Superior Courts in Alberta and Yukon may contribute to an increase in the overall rate of recidivism in these jurisdictions.

¹⁰ The proportion of recidivists with a prior youth conviction increases to 74% for those age groups (i.e., 18, 19 and 20 years of age) where a complete youth conviction history is possible.

¹¹ The "time to reconviction" refers to the elapsed time (in days) between the date of disposition for the most recent conviction, and the date of disposition for the most recent prior conviction.

¹² Alternative measures and diversion programs are used to deal with offenders without invoking the judicial procedures of the Criminal Code. Charges are dismissed when the accused follows the conditions of the alternative measures or diversion program (CCC s.717).

¹³ New Brunswick and British Columbia also have pre-charge screening, but these jurisdictions did not report to the ACCS in 1999/00.

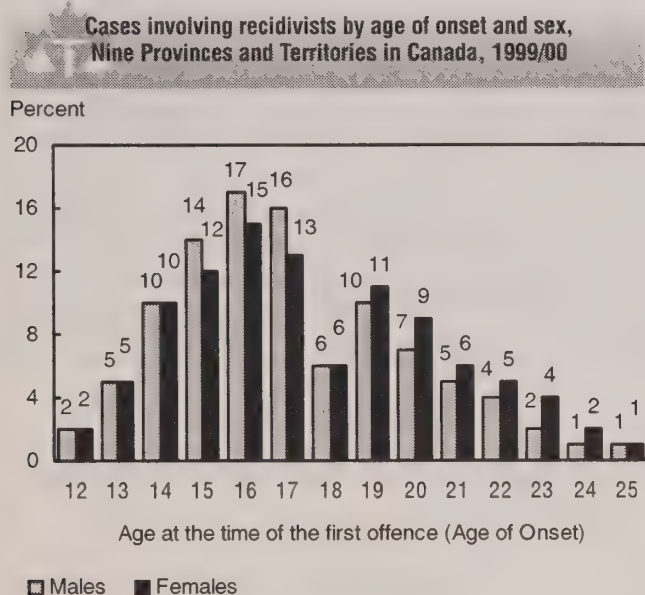
AGE OF ONSET

The age of onset refers to the age of the offender at the time of the offence leading to their first conviction. For recidivists in this study, the age of onset ranged from 12 to 25 years of age in 1999/00.¹⁴ The objective of the analysis is to highlight how differences in age of onset affect the nature and frequency of convictions for repeat offenders.

Sixteen was the most common age of first conviction

Most male recidivists (64%) and female recidivists (57%) convicted in 1999/00 had been convicted at least once for an offence committed prior to turning 18 years of age. Sixteen years of age was the most common age of onset for both males (17%) and females (15%).¹⁵ Seventeen years of age was the next most common age of onset (**Figure 4**).

Figure 4



Notes:

Age is the age of the offender at the time of the offence.

Excludes New Brunswick, Manitoba, British Columbia, and Nunavut.

Recidivists are defined as 18-25 year-olds convicted in 1999/00 who had one or more prior convictions.

Complete adult conviction histories were not available for 24 and 25 year-olds in the study. This reduces the possibility of an age of onset of 18 or 19 years for 25 year-olds, and an age of onset of 18 years for 24 year-olds. Consequently, the proportion of recidivists with an age of onset of 18 or 19 years is slightly understated.

Source: Statistics Canada. Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Youth Court Survey, Adult Criminal Court Survey.

Repeat offenders whose age of onset was 18 represented a comparatively small percentage of recidivists, regardless of sex.¹⁶ However, this pattern reflects the normal age distribution of convicted offenders in adult criminal court. ACCS data indicate that persons 18 years of age consistently comprise a smaller percentage of the caseload in adult criminal court

compared to their 19 year-old peers. One possible explanation for this anomaly is the use of pre-charge alternative measures or diversion programs. Police and Crown prosecutors may consider offenders who are 18 years of age, with no prior convictions, to be particularly suitable for diversion or alternative measures programs.¹⁷

Younger offenders are more frequent recidivists

As indicated above, the age of onset for recidivists in this study ranged from 12 to 25 years of age. However, because recidivists who were first convicted at a young age would have more time to accumulate additional convictions during the study period, the remainder of the age of onset analysis examines criminal histories according to eight distinct age cohorts. They range from offenders who had an age of onset of 12 (18 years old in 1999/00), to offenders who had an age of onset of 19, (25 years old in the reference year). This approach helps to create a consistent basis for comparison, as the selected offenders in each cohort will have had an equal number of years (six) from age at the time of first conviction, to age in the reference year.¹⁸

The mean number of prior convictions for recidivists appeared to be associated with their age at the time of their first offence. That is, the younger the offender at the time of first offence resulting in conviction (age of onset), the larger the number of prior offences committed. For example, the mean number of prior convictions for recidivists who had an age of onset of 19 (were 25 years old in the reference year), was 4.0 (**Figure 5**). In contrast, for recidivists who had an age of onset of 12 (were 18 years old in the reference year), the mean number of prior convictions was 7.7. Thus, recidivists with an age of onset of 12 had nearly double the mean number of prior convictions than recidivists with an age of onset of 19 (See **Table 4**). The increased number of prior convictions for early onset offenders may be influenced by a number of factors. For example, as offenders age they tend to commit fewer offences. Also, adult offenders can be sentenced to longer terms of custody once convicted, thereby reducing opportunities to commit new offences.

¹⁴ The processing time lags between offence date and conviction date create the possibility for an accused that was 25 years of age in the reference year to have an age of onset prior to the nine years covered by this study. Excludes 728 recidivists where the age of onset for the recidivist was unknown. See methodology section for more information.

¹⁵ The age of onset refers to the age of the accused at the time of the offence for their first conviction, and the case information presented reflects the characteristics of their adult criminal court conviction in 1999/00. Reconviction patterns for offenders between the ages of 21 and 25 years may be influenced by the offending patterns of individuals in this age range. As individuals age, the type of convictions may change, the number of convictions may be reduced, and the time between convictions may increase.

¹⁶ Complete adult conviction histories were not available for 24 and 25 year-olds in the study. This reduces the possibility of an age of onset of 18 or 19 years for 25 year-olds, and an age of onset of 18 years for 24 year-olds. Consequently, the proportion of recidivists with an age of onset of 18 or 19 years is slightly understated. See methodology section for more information.

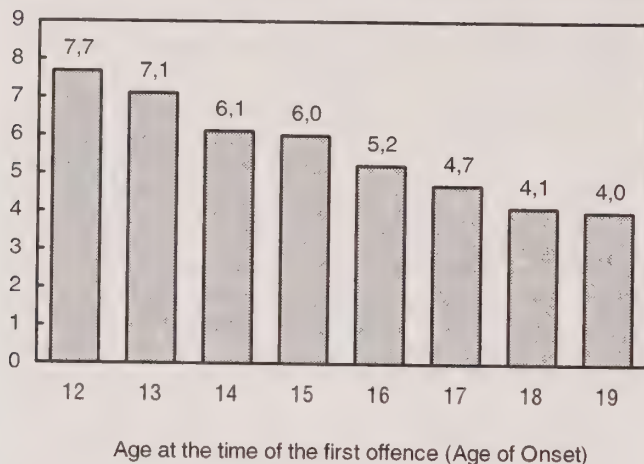
¹⁷ Offenders 18 years of age comprised less than 10% of first-time offenders; yet 19 year-old first-time offenders accounted for 19% of the study group.

¹⁸ The age at the time of the offence may not be the same as the actual age of the accused at the time of the conviction. For more information please see the methodology section at the end of this report.

Figure 5

Mean number of prior convictions against recidivists by age of onset, Nine provinces and territories in Canada, 1999/00

Mean number of prior convictions



Notes:

Age is the age of the offender at the time of the offence.

Excludes New Brunswick, Manitoba, British Columbia, and Nunavut.

Recidivists who were first convicted at a young age would have more time to accumulate additional convictions during the study period. This chart examines criminal histories according to eight distinct age cohorts. They range from offenders who had an age of onset of 12 (18 years old in 1999/00), to offenders who had an age of onset of 19, (25 years old in 1999/00).

Complete adult conviction histories were not available for 24 and 25 year-olds in the study. This reduces the possibility of an age of onset of 18 or 19 years for 25 year-olds, and an age of onset of 18 years for 24 year-olds. Consequently, the proportion of recidivists with an age of onset of 18 or 19 years is slightly understated.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Youth Court Survey, Adult Criminal Court Survey.

Early age of onset recidivists had more charges per case

Generally, the younger the age of onset, the higher the number of charges per case. For example, the mean number of charges per case varied from 3.1 for recidivists with an age of onset of 12, to 2.6 charges per case for recidivists with an age of onset of 19. Because the number of charges in a case can be used as an indicator of case severity, the higher mean number of charges suggests that recidivists with an earlier age of onset tend to be involved in more serious cases.

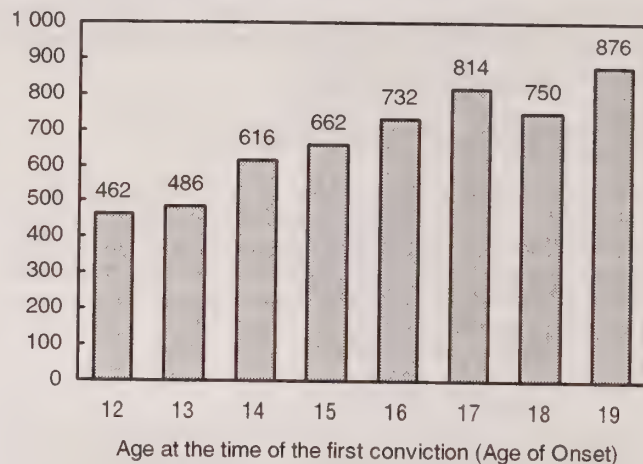
Early age of onset recidivists had shorter time to reconviction

As with the number of prior convictions and the number of charges in a case, elapsed time to reconviction is associated with the age of onset. Recidivists with an age of onset of 19 had the longest mean elapsed time between convictions (876 days or 2.4 years). On the other hand, recidivists with an age of onset of 12 had the shortest mean elapsed time between convictions (462 days or 1.3 years) (**Figure 6**).

Figure 6

Mean elapsed time between convictions for recidivists by age of onset, Nine provinces and territories in Canada, 1999/00

Mean elapsed time between convictions (days)



Notes:

Age is the age of the offender at the time of the offence.

Excludes New Brunswick, Manitoba, British Columbia, and Nunavut.

Recidivists who were first convicted at a young age would have more time to accumulate additional convictions during the study period, this chart examines criminal histories according to eight distinct age cohorts. They range from offenders who had an age of onset of 12 (18 years old in 1999/00), to offenders who had an age of onset of 19, (25 years old in the reference year).

Complete adult conviction histories were not available for 24 and 25 year-olds in the study. This reduces the possibility of an age of onset of 18 or 19 years for 25 year-olds, and an age of onset of 18 years for 24 year-olds. Consequently, the proportion of recidivists with an age of onset of 18 or 19 years is slightly understated.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Youth Court Survey, Adult Criminal Court Survey.

SENTENCING OF FIRST-TIME OFFENDERS AND RECIDIVISTS

After the seriousness of the offence, an offender's criminal record is the most important factor determining the severity of sentencing.¹⁹ While the court cannot sentence the offender a second time for a past conviction, it may consider the criminal history of the accused and any other aggravating or mitigating factors before sentencing.²⁰

This section presents comparisons of the sentences imposed on first-time offenders (offenders with no known prior adult or youth convictions in the nine-year study period) and recidivists between 18 and 25 years of age convicted in adult criminal court in 1999/00. The purpose of the analysis is to assess how the number and type of prior convictions may influence sentence type and severity for convictions in the reference year.

¹⁹ See G. Campbell. 1993. *An Examination of Recidivism in Relation to Offence Histories and Offender Profiles*. Ottawa: Statistics Canada.

²⁰ Criminal Code of Canada, sections 718 to s.727.

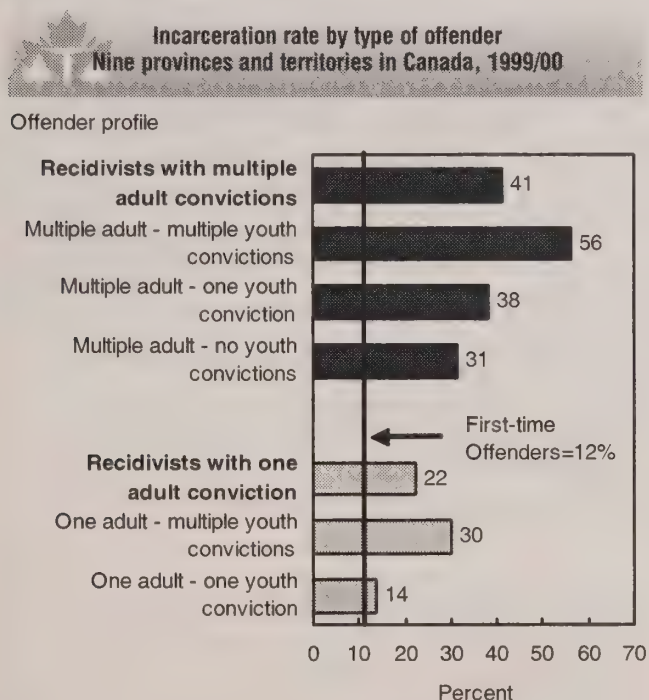
Recidivists three times more likely to be sentenced to custody than first-time offenders

Custody was used most frequently as a sanction against recidivists.²¹ Among total recidivists, 37% had custody for the last conviction in 1999/00, while 12% of first-time offenders had a sentence of custody. In comparison, first-time offenders tended to receive either probation or a fine as the most serious sentence, each comprising the most serious sentence in 39% of convictions.

Incarceration used more frequently for repeat offenders

Among all recidivists, relatively longer criminal histories tended to correspond with higher incarceration rates.²² Recidivists with multiple adult convictions had an incarceration rate (41%) nearly twice as high as did recidivists with a single adult conviction (22%) (**Figure 7**).²³ Offenders with the largest number of prior convictions - recidivists with multiple adult convictions and multiple youth convictions - had the highest overall incarceration rate (56%).

Figure 7



Notes:

Excludes New Brunswick, Manitoba, British Columbia, and Nunavut. Recidivists are defined as 18-25 year-olds convicted in 1999/00 who had one or more prior convictions.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Youth Court Survey, Adult Criminal Court Survey.

Recidivist with multiple adult convictions are more frequently sentenced to custody

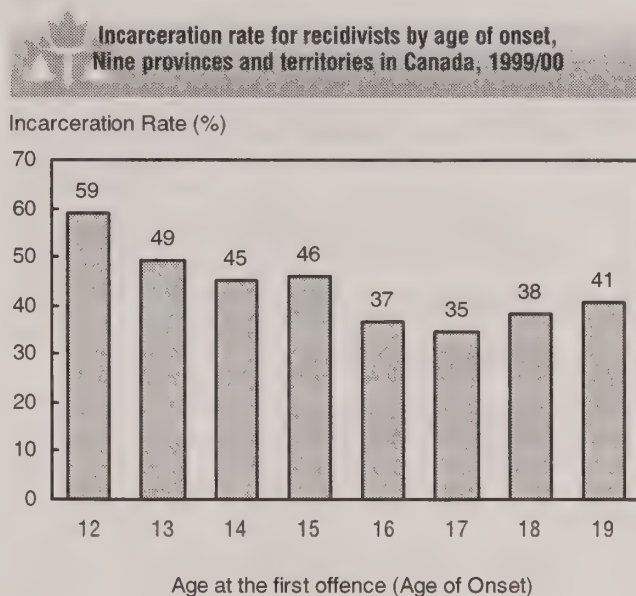
In general, prior convictions in adult criminal court appeared to have more influence on incarceration rates than did prior convictions in youth court. The incarceration rate for recidivists

with multiple adult convictions and a single prior youth conviction was 38%, compared to 30% for recidivists with a single adult conviction and multiple prior youth convictions. This finding held for almost all offence categories.

Early age of onset recidivists had higher incarceration rates

Incarceration rates were higher for repeat offenders with an early age of onset.²⁴ Recidivists who were 12 years of age at the time of their first conviction had an incarceration rate of 59%, compared to 35% for recidivists whose age of onset was 17 years of age (**Figure 8**, and **Table 5**). As discussed earlier,

Figure 8



Notes:

Excludes New Brunswick, Manitoba, British Columbia, and Nunavut. Recidivists are defined as 18-25 year-olds convicted in 1999/00 who had one or more prior convictions. Age is the age of the offender at the time of the offence. Recidivists who were first convicted at a young age would have more time to accumulate additional convictions during the study period, this chart examines criminal histories according to eight distinct age cohorts. They range from offenders who had an age of onset of 12 (18 years old in 1999/00), to offenders who had an age of onset of 19, (25 years old in the reference year). Complete adult conviction histories were not available for 24 and 25 year-olds in the study. This reduces the possibility of an age of onset of 18 or 19 years for 25 year-olds, and an age of onset of 18 years for 24 year-olds. Consequently, the proportion of recidivists with an age of onset of 18 or 19 years is slightly understated.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Youth Court Survey, Adult Criminal Court Survey.

²¹ Courts may impose more than one sentence upon convicting an offender. As a result, when presenting sentencing information it is possible to adopt two perspectives. One perspective is to apply the Most Serious Sentence rule where more than one sentence is associated with the case. Sentences are ranked from most to least serious as follows: custody; probation; fine; restitution; other (conditional sentence, absolute or conditional discharge, suspended sentence, other). A second perspective is the Type of Sentence imposed, which considers the combination of sentences imposed on the offender. When using this perspective, sentence types presented are not mutually exclusive and will not add to 100%. Unless otherwise stated, the analysis in the sentencing section uses the Type of Sentence approach.

²² The incarceration rate is defined as the proportion of convicted court cases sentenced to a term of prison.

²³ See Box 2 for definitions of each offender profile.

²⁴ This analysis examines criminal histories according to eight distinct age cohorts. They range from offenders who had an age of onset of 12 (18 years old in the reference year), to offenders who had an age of onset of 19, (25 years old in the reference year).

offenders with an early age of onset had a significantly higher mean number of prior convictions than offenders with a later first conviction. A higher number of convictions would contribute to a higher incarceration rate.

Incarceration rate for first-time offenders highest in Prince Edward Island

In every jurisdiction reporting to the survey, first-time offenders had the lowest incarceration rates while offenders with the most priors, recidivists with multiple adult convictions and multiple prior youth convictions, had the highest incarceration rates. The highest overall incarceration rate for recidivists was in Prince Edward Island (62%), while the lowest incarceration rate for all recidivists was in Saskatchewan (27%). Prince Edward Island also had the highest incarceration rate for first-time offenders (44%); Nova Scotia (5%), Newfoundland and Labrador (7%), and Saskatchewan (7%) had the lowest incarceration rate for first-time offenders.

The proportion of first-time offenders and recidivists incarcerated in Prince Edward Island is largely a function of the incarceration rate for impaired driving. For example, first-time offenders convicted of impaired driving are frequently sent to prison. Since this offence category accounts for 30% of the cases against first-time offenders, and 16% of the cases against recidivists, the proportion of cases sentenced to prison in Prince Edward Island will be higher than the national average.

First-time offenders had longer mean length of custody

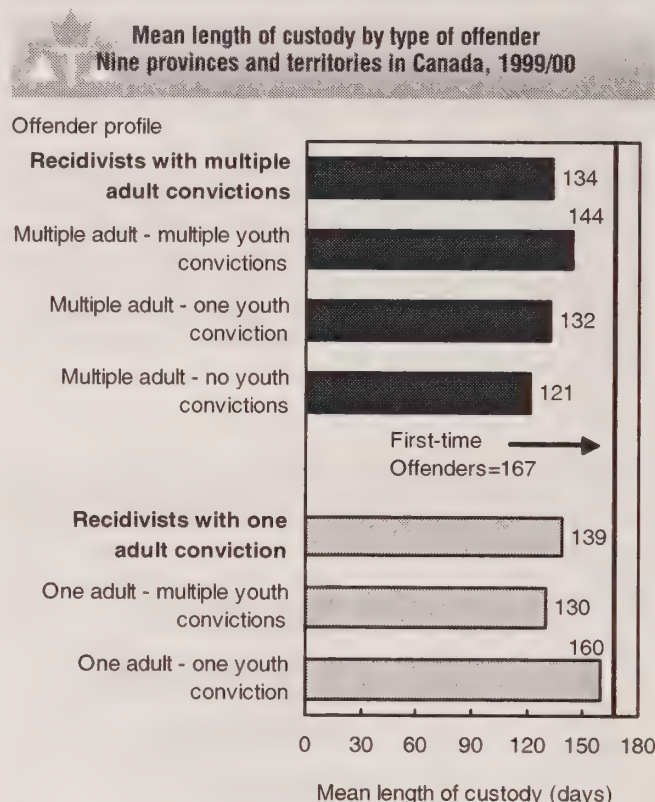
The mean length of custody for first-time offenders, at 167 days, was higher than for recidivists, at 135 days (**Figure 9**).²⁵ This finding held across most offence categories. The difference was highest for *Criminal Code Traffic* offences, where the mean length of custody for first-time offenders (159 days) was over twice the length of custody for recidivists (64 days). For *Crimes Against Property* offences and *Administration of Justice* offences, recidivists had a higher mean length of custody. However, the difference for *Administration of Justice* offences was only one day (See **Table 6**).

Mean length of custody data must be interpreted within context of the difference in incarceration rates of first-time offenders (i.e., offenders with no known prior convictions) and recidivists. Because the incarceration rate for first-time offenders is significantly lower than for recidivists, the data on mean length of custody for first-time offenders represent a relatively smaller subset of convictions. Incarceration was used as a sanction in a fraction of all cases against first-time offenders (12%), and may indicate particularly aggravating circumstances, other than a criminal history, that merited lengthy custody sentences. Conversely, the much larger number of cases resulting in incarceration for recidivists may have the effect of moderating the influence of those cases against recidivists that received lengthy custody sentences.

Additional evidence of this may be found by examining the mean custody lengths for recidivists with very short criminal histories. For example, recidivists with a single adult conviction and a single prior youth conviction had the second lowest incarceration rate (14%) among all offenders. However, these recidivists had a mean custody length of 160 days, which was second highest among all offenders.

The effect of a higher incarceration rate moderating mean custody sentence lengths diminished for the most prolific offenders. Recidivists with multiple adult and youth convictions had the highest overall incarceration rate and the third highest mean length of custody sentence (144 days).

Figure 9



Notes:

Excludes New Brunswick, Manitoba, British Columbia, and Nunavut.

Recidivists are defined as 18-25 year-olds convicted in 1999/00 who had one or more prior convictions.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Youth Court Survey, Adult Criminal Court Survey.

Custody sentences frequently coupled with probation terms

The Criminal Code specifies that the court may impose probation in addition to custody when the term of custody does not exceed two years, and where no minimum punishment is required.²⁶ In 1999/00, a probation term accompanied 46% of custody sentences imposed on first-time offenders, and 42% of custody sentences imposed on recidivists.

²⁵ The mean length of prison sentence is calculated using the sentencing details from the most serious charge in the case. The calculation excludes cases where the prison sentence length was not known, and where the length was indeterminate. Cases where the prison sentence was captured as greater than fourteen years have been re-coded to 5,111 days (fourteen years plus one day) and life sentences have been re-coded to 9,125 days (25 years).

²⁶ Criminal Code of Canada, section 731(1)(b).

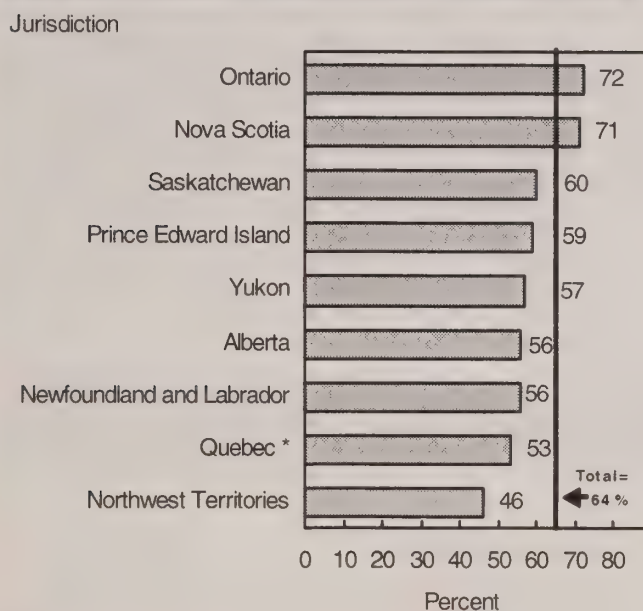
Nearly two-thirds of recidivists sentenced to custody had been incarcerated before

Nearly two-thirds of recidivists sentenced to custody in 1999/00 had been previously incarcerated, twenty percent having been sentenced to custody four or more times.

Among jurisdictions, the highest percentage of incarcerated recidivists with a prior custody sentence was in Ontario (72%), while the lowest percentage was in Northwest Territories (46%) (**Figure 10**). Differences in prior incarceration rates will be a function of differences in the proportion of offenders in each jurisdiction who are recidivists, as well as differences across jurisdictions in incarceration rates generally.

Figure 10

**Proportion of recidivists with a custody sentence that had a previous custody order
Nine provinces and territories in Canada, 1999/00**



Notes:

Excludes New Brunswick, Manitoba, British Columbia, and Nunavut.
Recidivists are defined as 18-25 year-olds convicted in 1999/00 who had one or more prior convictions.

* Information from Quebec's municipal courts (which account for approximately 20% of Criminal Code charges in that province) is not yet collected. The exclusion of convictions in these courts accounts, to some extent, for the lower recidivism rate calculated for Quebec.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Youth Court Survey, Adult Criminal Court Survey.

Use of probation

Probation terms for recidivists frequently coupled with custody sentences

In 1999/00, a custody sentence accompanied 12% of probation terms imposed on first-time offenders, and 34% of probation terms imposed on recidivists. Combined sentences of probation

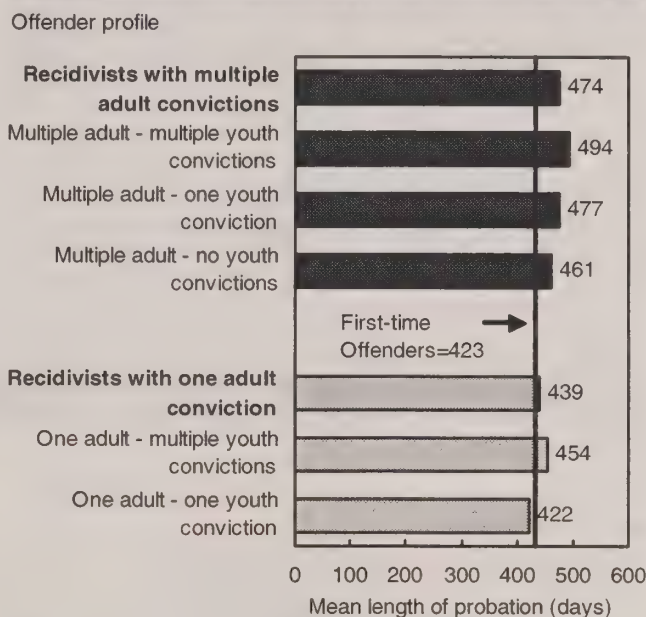
and custody indicate a more severe sanction than a stand-alone probation order, or that the offender required treatment or ongoing support. This combination of sanctions was used most frequently in cases against offenders with multiple prior convictions. For example, in 1999/00, half (52%) of probation terms imposed on recidivists with multiple adult convictions and multiple prior youth convictions accompanied a custody sentence.

Recidivists sentenced to longer probation terms

Overall, recidivists received longer probation terms than did first-time offenders. The mean length of probation term for first-time offenders was 423 days and the mean length of probation term for recidivists was 466 days (**Figure 11**).

Figure 11

**Mean length probation by type of offender
Nine provinces and territories in Canada, 1999/00**



Notes:

Excludes New Brunswick, Manitoba, British Columbia, and Nunavut.
Recidivists are defined as 18-25 year-olds convicted in 1999/00 who had one or more prior convictions.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Youth Court Survey, Adult Criminal Court Survey.

The mean length of probation term was longer for recidivists than first-time offenders for most offence categories. The longest probation terms were usually imposed for the most serious offence categories in cases against recidivists. For example, the mean length of probation term for recidivists convicted of *Crimes Against the Person* was approximately 17 months (514 days), while the mean length of probation term for first-time offenders was 15 months (452 days). Exceptions were convictions for *Criminal Code Traffic and Administration of Justice* offences, which had longer mean lengths of probation terms for first-time offenders (See **Table 7**).

Longer probation terms for first-time offenders convicted of these offences may be influenced by mandatory minimum sentencing provisions (e.g. a higher proportion of repeat offenders would be sentenced to prison for offences like impaired driving), but also by the sanctions given in combination with probation. For example, when a probation term was imposed on first-time offenders convicted of *Criminal Code Traffic* offences, it was combined with custody in slightly less than one-quarter of these convictions (23%), and as the most serious sentence in almost three-quarters (73%) of cases.²⁷ In contrast, almost two-thirds (63%) of probation terms imposed on recidivists convicted of *Criminal Code Traffic* offences were combined with imprisonment, and slightly more than one-third (35%) represented the most serious sentence in the case. In this example, the mean length of probation term was longer for first-time offenders convicted of *Criminal Code Traffic* offences, but it was the most serious sentence in almost three-quarters of the cases with probation.

Use of Fines

A fine was the most frequently imposed sanction for first-time offenders, occurring in almost half (47%) of these convicted cases. In contrast, 38% of recidivists were ordered to pay a fine. The mean fine amount imposed on first-time offenders (\$464) was \$100 more than the mean amount of fine imposed on recidivists.

Fines rarely imposed with custody

Unlike probation, fines were rarely imposed along with custody. This held for all types of offenders. For example, of fines imposed on first-time offenders, only 1% accompanied custody.²⁸ The equivalent figure for recidivists was 3%. A more frequent scenario was a fine being imposed in conjunction with probation. Here again, there was not a large difference among offender profiles. Fifteen percent of fines imposed on first-time offenders and 19% of fines imposed on recidivists accompanied a probation term.

Fines imposed more often for offenders with short criminal history

The length of the recidivist's criminal history may have had an impact on the use of fines as a sanction. A fine was imposed more often in cases against recidivists with one adult conviction (42%) than in cases against recidivists with multiple adult convictions (36%). The lowest proportion of fines imposed (29%) were ordered in cases against the most prolific offenders, recidivists with multiple adult and multiple youth convictions. Offenders with this profile also had the highest incarceration rate.

First-time offenders and recidivists sentenced to pay similar amounts of fines

In comparing the mean amount of fine, the difference between the first-time offenders and recidivists was less than \$50 for most offence categories. The only exception was for *Other Federal Statutes*, where the mean amount of fine imposed on first-time offenders was \$461, compared to \$334 for recidivists (See **Table 8**).

METHODOLOGY

Data sources used in the study

The purpose of the Adult Criminal Court Survey (ACCS) is to provide a national database of statistical information on the processing of cases through the adult criminal court system. The survey is intended to be a census of *Criminal Code* and other federal statute charges dealt with in provincial/territorial adult criminal courts. The Youth Court Survey (YCS) is a census of *Criminal Code* and other federal statute offences heard in youth court for persons aged 12 to 17 (up to the 18th birthday) at the time of the offence.

Though respondents and the Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics (CCJS) make every effort to ensure complete survey coverage, slight under-coverage may occur in some jurisdictions.

Coverage

Some limitations on coverage of the ACCS should be noted. Three provinces and one territory (New Brunswick, Manitoba and British Columbia and Nunavut) did not report to the ACCS in 1999/00.²⁹ Survey data are available from Newfoundland and Labrador, Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, Quebec, Ontario, Saskatchewan, Alberta, Yukon, and the Northwest Territories (including Nunavut 1994/95 to 1998/99) from 1994/95. ACCS data do not include Northwest Territories for 1996/97 and include two fiscal quarters of data for the territory in 1994/95 and three fiscal quarters of data in 1999/00. These nine jurisdictions represent approximately 80 percent of national adult criminal court coverage.

All youth courts in Canada have reported complete data to the YCS since 1991/92.³⁰ However, youth court convictions in New Brunswick, Manitoba and British Columbia, and Nunavut were excluded from the study due to the unavailability of ACCS data.

Counting procedures

The basic unit of count for this study is the convicted case. A convicted case is defined as one or more charges against an offender disposed of on the same date, with at least one charge resulting in a conviction. Charges are matched to a case on the basis of jurisdiction, the accused identifier (i.e., a provincial/territorial reference number is used to match charges with an accused) and the date of the last court appearance. The study counts more than one case against an individual when charges against the accused are completed on different dates.

²⁷ Some cases (4%) have a probation order with a conditional sentence. The *Criminal Code* specifies that the offender report to a supervisor, who is responsible for monitoring compliance with the optional conditions, and the existence of a probation order may indicate that Correctional Services has been directed to monitor these conditions.

²⁸ This analysis does not include cases sentenced to custody in default of fine payment. When an accused fails to pay the imposed fine in the required time, the court may sentence the accused to a term of custody in default of that fine. CCC s. 734 (3).

²⁹ New Brunswick and British Columbia have recently completed interface development projects and will be part of the ACCS for 2001/02.

³⁰ Youth Court data are complete for 1991/92 with the exception of a 15% under-coverage for Ontario in that year.

Factors influencing the number of charges laid

Charging policies are determined individually by provinces and territories. In Quebec for example, the police must obtain the approval of the Crown prosecutor before a charge is laid. In provinces and territories where pre-charge screening is not used, the police have exclusive responsibility for the laying of a charge.³¹ These differences may affect the number and nature of charges laid across the country.

Methodology used for this study

This report examines the conviction profiles of persons, 18 to 25 years of age, who were found guilty of at least one charge in adult criminal court in fiscal year 1999/00. Recidivists were defined as those individuals with at least one other conviction in an adult or youth court in the same jurisdiction during the nine years covered by the study.

Prior convictions were ordered in chronological sequence based on conviction dates, and therefore do not necessarily relate to the chronological sequence of date of offence. As such, a small number of offence dates for reference year convictions could fall before the offence date of a prior conviction. This data processing approach was taken to maintain the standard case definition used by the court surveys, which may have multiple charge convictions with different offence dates.

Individual adult offenders in 1999/00 were identified for each jurisdiction using the accused's date of birth, and encrypted name (Henri Code in Quebec and Russell Soundex Code in all other jurisdictions).³² Adults convicted in 1999/00 were then matched to all convicted cases within the same jurisdiction – using birth date and encrypted accused name of the accused – in the Adult Criminal Court Survey (ACCS) and the Youth Court Survey (YCS) back to 1991/92 for YCS and 1994/95 for ACCS. In this manner, the criminal history of each reference year offender was constructed to trace the number of prior convictions (if any), the courts in which these convictions occurred, and the age of the offender at the time of the offence leading to their first conviction (**Figure 12**).

The courts make every effort to identify the legal name of each accused appearing in court, and sometimes use an alias file to assist in this process. Aliases are matched to the accused's legal name, and the alias can then be converted into the legal name of the accused for identification and processing.

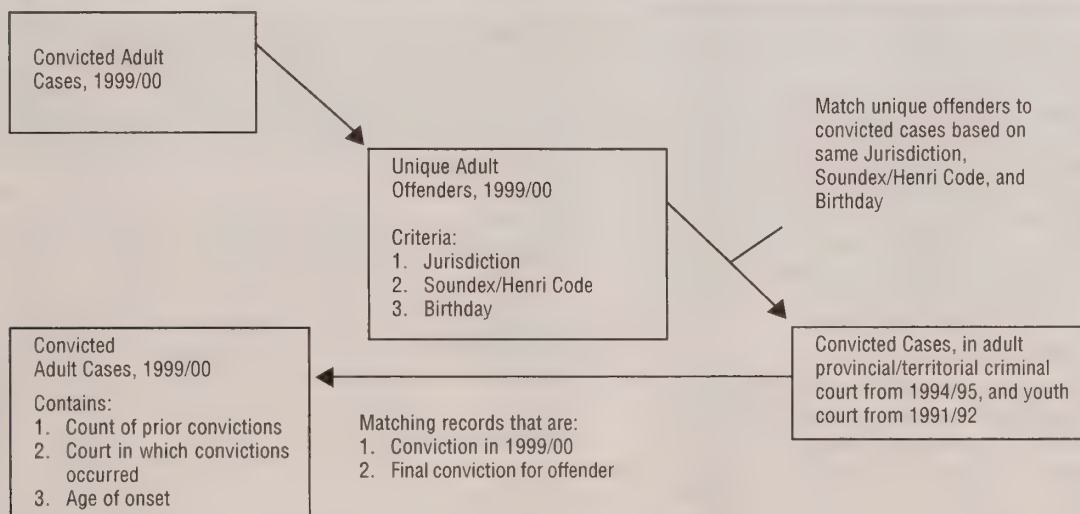
The construction of the criminal history file and the subsequent matching of prior convictions for each offender allowed for the possibility of multiple convictions in a single year, including 1999/00.

³¹ New Brunswick and British Columbia also have pre-charge screening, but these jurisdictions did not report to the ACCS in 1999/00.

³² Jurisdictions that provide data to the ACCS and YCS through automated extracts from justice information systems do not report the name of the offender. The Henri code used in Quebec, and the Russell Soundex code used elsewhere, encrypts the name of the offender.

Figure 12

Record matching process model, Nine provinces and territories in Canada, 1999/00



Notes:

Excludes New Brunswick, Manitoba, British Columbia, and Nunavut.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Youth Court Survey, Adult Criminal Court Survey.

The sex of offender was not used for identifying and matching individuals. The accused was male in the vast majority (84%) of cases heard in adult criminal courts in 1999/00.³³

Administration of justice offences

While sometimes excluded from recidivism analysis, administration of justice offences, (e.g. escape custody, breach of probation, and fail to appear in court) have been included in this study for several reasons. First, administration of justice infractions related to previous convictions are frequently part of a larger case which can also include one or more new charges against an offender. For example, if an accused on probation for a previous conviction is caught committing a theft, a breach of probation charge could be added to the current theft case. However, because administration of justice offences are often sentenced more severely than many other crimes (and case data are processed and stored according to the most serious offence in the case)³⁴, excluding such cases would result in the loss of cases that contain entirely new non-administration of justice offences.

Secondly, many charges for administration of justice offences are added to an existing case dealing only with new offences. For instance, if an accused is involved in a court case related to a theft incident and fails to appear in court, a "fail to appear" charge can be added to the existing theft charges. Again, because administration of justice offences have a high severity ranking, this case would be stored in the court database as an administration of justice case. Thus, in this example, excluding administration of justice cases from the study would result in the loss of what started out as a theft case.

Finally, a conviction on a stand-alone administration of justice offence (based on a previous non-administration of justice violation) can result in a change in sentence status. For example, if an accused is sentenced to a term of probation for a theft conviction, and later breached the conditions of his/her probation sentence, a breach of probation charge could be laid. A conviction on this new charge could result in a prison sentence. As such, the original probation sentence for the theft conviction would be replaced by a prison sentence, creating a change in sentence status. Excluding administration of justice offences would mean that all such changes in sentence status would be lost, thus reducing the capacity of the study to support the analysis of sentencing. Since developing an improved understanding of sentencing patterns and outcomes (including incarceration histories) is fundamental to the analysis of court data, convictions on administration of justice offences were included in the study.

Age at the time of the offence

Age data presented in this study reflect the age of the accused at the time of the offence, which can be different than the age of the accused at the time of the conviction. While it is possible for the police to apprehend the accused immediately following an offence, and for the court to dispose of the case in a matter of days, most cases take more than a few days to proceed from offence to case completion.

Overall, variations in the way an offender proceeds from offence to case completion make it possible for the study to include convictions for offences that occurred more than nine years

apart. For example, it is possible for an accused to be apprehended many months after the commission of the offence, and for the courts to take several more months to convict the accused. In this way it is possible for an accused's conviction age to be six to 12 months older than the age at the time of the offence. In a small number of cases the difference could be two years or more. As such, the study period could encompass nine years of the accused's conviction history, but more than nine years of the accused's offence history. The impact of these time lags should be considered when analysing cases by age of on-set.

Recidivism Study Limitations

- There were 72 convicted cases excluded due to a missing code for the encrypted name (Russell Soundex/Henri Code).
- Variations or errors in the capture of an offender's name in jurisdictional court information systems would result in multiple convictions against the same individual not obtaining a match, thereby producing an undercount of recidivists. Conversely, the number of recidivists may be over-counted as a result of "false positives" (e.g., two individuals with the same encrypted name and birth date having convictions within a jurisdiction). The extent of these occurrences is not known at this time.
- There were 1,742 convicted cases excluded due to a missing birth date for the accused. The birthday is a key matching variable and the removal of cases with a missing date of birth results in an undercounting of the number of convicted cases in the reference year.
- Information from Quebec's municipal courts (which account for approximately 20% of Criminal Code charges in that province) is not yet collected. The exclusion of convictions in these courts accounts, to some extent, for the lower recidivism rate calculated for Quebec.
- With the exception of Alberta (reporting superior courts since 1998/99) and the Yukon (1999/00), data are not currently reported from superior courts. Since some superior court cases will result in a conviction, the absence of these data will result in a slight underestimation of recidivism rates.
- Complete conviction histories were available for 18, 19 and 20 year olds in the study, but because comprehensive YCS data are not available prior to 1991/92, complete youth conviction histories for 21-25 year olds were not obtainable. For example, 25 year-old offenders (17 years of age in 1991/92) would have had only one year in the youth system, 24 year-old offenders would have had two years in the youth system, etc. Consequently, the total number of prior youth convictions for these offenders may be understated.

³³ The sex of the accused was not known in 6,042 (3%) of all convicted cases in 1999/00.

³⁴ The case definition used by the ACCS and YCS is based on the most serious offence rule, which orders charges in a case by the severity of the offence. The most serious offence is then used to represent that case in the database. Since administration of justice offences have a high severity ranking, they will be designated the most serious offence in a large number of cases with multiple charges.

- Complete adult conviction histories were not available for 24 and 25 year-olds in the study. For example, 25 year-old offenders convicted in 1999/00, would have been 20 years of age in 1994/95, and 24 year-old offenders in 1999/00 would have been 19 years of age in 1994/95. This reduces the possibility of an age of onset of 18 or 19 years for 25 year-olds, and an age of onset of 18 years for 24 year-olds. Consequently, the proportion of recidivists with an age of onset of 18 or 19 years is slightly understated.
- Convictions are sequenced in order of their conviction date rather than the offence date. Re-ordering convictions according to the offence date would result in a change in the chronology of a small number of convictions, producing slightly different results.

Alternative methodologies

A range of methodological approaches for processing and analysing data on recidivism were discussed during the development of this study. All of the alternative approaches were either narrower in focus or required significant changes to established survey definitions or data processing methods. However, one or more of the following approaches could be undertaken in future recidivism studies.

- Developing a recidivist database arranged and analysed according to the age of offenders at the time of the conviction rather than age at offence.
- Exploring cross-jurisdictional matching of conviction records to develop a more complete picture of recidivism and to assess the degree of geographic mobility among recidivists.
- Investigating a broader definition of recidivism by including cases that did not result in conviction. The objective of this approach would be to measure "contacts with the justice system".
- Using a prospective approach, select a cohort study of individuals born in a given time period and follow the conviction histories of these individuals through the justice system over time.
- Using a sentenced and released cohort to investigate the impact of community and institution based rehabilitative programming and the success of assessing the possibility of subsequent re-offending by paroled or released offenders.

Table 1

Current conviction by type of offence Nine provinces and territories in Canada, 1999/00

| Offence Group | Total offenders | | First time offenders | | Recidivists | |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------|--|----------------------|------------|---------------|------------|
| | # | | # | % | # | % |
| Total Offences | 56,774 | | 22,904 | 100 | 33,870 | 100 |
| Criminal Code Total | 47,380 | | 18,315 | 80 | 29,065 | 86 |
| Crimes Against the Person | 9,244 | | 3,615 | 16 | 5,629 | 17 |
| Homicide and related | 35 | | 14 | 0 | 21 | 0 |
| Attempted murder | 20 | | 4 | 0 | 16 | 0 |
| Robbery | 865 | | 254 | 1 | 611 | 2 |
| Kidnapping | 16 | | 5 | 0 | 11 | 0 |
| Sexual assault | 361 | | 156 | 1 | 205 | 1 |
| Sexual abuse | 106 | | 61 | 0 | 45 | 0 |
| Major assault | 3,015 | | 1,127 | 5 | 1,888 | 6 |
| Abduction | 3 | | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Common assault | 4,823 | | 1,991 | 9 | 2,832 | 8 |
| Crimes Against Property | 17,276 | | 6,456 | 28 | 10,820 | 32 |
| Break and enter | 3,371 | | 1,033 | 5 | 2,338 | 7 |
| Arson | 105 | | 34 | 0 | 71 | 0 |
| Fraud | 2,871 | | 1,314 | 6 | 1,557 | 5 |
| Possess stolen property | 2,687 | | 805 | 4 | 1,882 | 6 |
| Theft | 5,795 | | 2,353 | 10 | 3,442 | 10 |
| Property damage/mischief | 2,447 | | 917 | 4 | 1,530 | 5 |
| Other Criminal Code Violations | 12,905 | | 3,477 | 15 | 9,428 | 28 |
| Weapons | 1,101 | | 422 | 2 | 679 | 2 |
| Administration of justice | 3,795 | | 972 | 4 | 2,823 | 8 |
| Public order offences | 1,157 | | 418 | 2 | 739 | 2 |
| Morals-sexual | 1,104 | | 465 | 2 | 639 | 2 |
| Morals-gaming | 17 | | 16 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| Unspecified Criminal Code | 5,731 | | 1,184 | 5 | 4,547 | 13 |
| Criminal Code Traffic | 7,955 | | 4,767 | 21 | 3,188 | 9 |
| Other Criminal Code traffic | 1,039 | | 333 | 1 | 706 | 2 |
| Impaired driving | 6,916 | | 4,434 | 19 | 2,482 | 7 |
| Other Federal Statute Total | 9,394 | | 4,589 | 20 | 4,805 | 14 |

Notes:

Excludes New Brunswick, Manitoba, British Columbia, and Nunavut.

Prior conviction(s) for recidivists are not necessarily of the same offence type as the current conviction.

Recidivists are defined as 18-25 year-olds convicted in 1999/00 who had one or more prior convictions.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Youth Court Survey, Adult Criminal Court Survey.

Table 2

Cases against recidivists by type of current conviction and type of preceding conviction **Nine provinces and territories in Canada, 1999/00**

Offence group on most recent preceding conviction

| Offence Group on Current Conviction | Offence group on most recent preceding conviction | | | | | | |
|-------------------------------------|---|---------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| | Total | Crimes Against the Person | Crimes Against Property | Administration of Justice | Criminal Code Traffic | Other Criminal Code Violations | Other Federal Statute Total |
| | Percent of Cases | | | | | | |
| | # | % | % | % | % | % | % |
| Total | 33,870 | 16 | 38 | 12 | 7 | 14 | 12 |
| Crimes Against the Person | 5,629 | 26 | 30 | 14 | 6 | 14 | 10 |
| Crimes Against Property | 10,820 | 13 | 49 | 13 | 5 | 11 | 9 |
| Administration of Justice | 2,823 | 16 | 34 | 18 | 6 | 14 | 12 |
| Criminal Code Traffic | 3,188 | 11 | 31 | 7 | 27 | 11 | 13 |
| Other Criminal Code Offence | 6,605 | 17 | 37 | 12 | 5 | 20 | 9 |
| Other Federal Statute Total | 4,805 | 14 | 34 | 10 | 5 | 12 | 24 |

Notes:

Excludes New Brunswick, Manitoba, British Columbia, and Nunavut.

Recidivists are defined as 18-25 year-olds convicted in 1999/00 who had one or more prior convictions.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Youth Court Survey, Adult Criminal Court Survey.

Table 3

Offender profile by jurisdiction, **Nine provinces and territories in Canada, 1999/00**

| Offender profile | Total Cases resulting in conviction | | Newfoundland and Labrador | | Prince Edward Island | | Nova Scotia | | Quebec ² | | Ontario | | Saskatchewan | | Alberta ³ | | Yukon ³ | | Northwest Territories | |
|--|-------------------------------------|------------|---------------------------|------------|----------------------|------------|--------------|------------|---------------------|------------|---------------|------------|--------------|------------|----------------------|------------|--------------------|------------|-----------------------|------------|
| | # | % | # | % | # | % | # | % | # | % | # | % | # | % | # | % | # | % | # | % |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Total offenders | 56,774 | 100 | 1,301 | 100 | 389 | 100 | 2,131 | 100 | 13,302 | 100 | 24,097 | 100 | 4,996 | 100 | 10,078 | 100 | 193 | 100 | 287 | 100 |
| First time offenders | 22,904 | 40 | 572 | 44 | 172 | 44 | 933 | 44 | 6,188 | 47 | 9,170 | 38 | 1,801 | 36 | 3,897 | 39 | 82 | 42 | 89 | 31 |
| Recidivists¹ | 33,870 | 60 | 729 | 56 | 217 | 56 | 1,198 | 56 | 7,114 | 53 | 14,927 | 62 | 3,195 | 64 | 6,181 | 61 | 111 | 58 | 198 | 69 |
| Single adult conviction recidivists | 6,788 | 12 | 198 | 15 | 52 | 13 | 250 | 12 | 1,230 | 9 | 2,980 | 12 | 711 | 14 | 1,305 | 13 | 22 | 11 | 40 | 14 |
| single prior youth conviction | 3,284 | 6 | 95 | 7 | 24 | 6 | 157 | 7 | 616 | 5 | 1,519 | 6 | 319 | 6 | 527 | 5 | 7 | 4 | 20 | 7 |
| multiple prior youth convictions | 3,504 | 6 | 103 | 8 | 28 | 7 | 93 | 4 | 614 | 5 | 1,461 | 6 | 392 | 8 | 778 | 8 | 15 | 8 | 20 | 7 |
| Multiple adult convictions recidivists | 27,082 | 48 | 531 | 41 | 165 | 42 | 948 | 44 | 5,884 | 44 | 11,947 | 50 | 2,484 | 50 | 4,876 | 48 | 89 | 46 | 158 | 55 |
| no prior youth convictions | 12,865 | 23 | 243 | 19 | 71 | 18 | 466 | 22 | 3,327 | 25 | 5,472 | 23 | 1,036 | 21 | 2,108 | 21 | 57 | 30 | 85 | 30 |
| single prior youth conviction | 4,629 | 8 | 98 | 8 | 32 | 8 | 197 | 9 | 985 | 7 | 2,134 | 9 | 423 | 8 | 720 | 7 | 6 | 3 | 34 | 12 |
| multiple prior youth convictions | 9,588 | 17 | 190 | 15 | 62 | 16 | 285 | 13 | 1,572 | 12 | 4,341 | 18 | 1,025 | 21 | 2,048 | 20 | 26 | 13 | 39 | 14 |

¹ Recidivists are defined as 18-25 year-olds convicted in 1999/00 who had one or more prior convictions.

² Information from Quebec's municipal courts (which account for approximately 20% of Criminal Code charges in that province) is not yet collected. The exclusion of convictions in these courts accounts, to some extent, for the lower recidivism rate calculated for Quebec.

³ Includes cases completed in superior courts.

Excludes New Brunswick, Manitoba, British Columbia, and Nunavut.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Youth Court Survey, Adult Criminal Court Survey.

Table 4

**Mean number of prior convictions for recidivists by age on current conviction and age of onset,
Nine provinces and territories in Canada, 1999/00**

| Age of Onset | Age on current conviction | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--------------|---------------------------|------------|--------------|------------|--------------|------------|--------------|------------|--------------|------------|--------------|------------|--------------|------------|--------------|------------|--------------|------------|
| | Total | | 18 | | 19 | | 20 | | 21 | | 22 | | 23 | | 24 | | 25 | |
| | # | Mean | # | Mean | # | Mean | # | Mean | # | Mean | # | Mean | # | Mean | # | Mean | # | Mean |
| Total | 33,142 | 4.2 | 2,616 | 3.5 | 5,312 | 3.8 | 5,073 | 4.2 | 4,758 | 4.4 | 4,376 | 4.5 | 4,045 | 4.7 | 3,749 | 4.5 | 3,213 | 4.1 |
| 12 | 769 | 8.8 | 139 | 7.7 | 264 | 7.9 | 232 | 9.8 | 114 | 10.2 | 19 | 9.5 | 0 | 0.0 | 1 | 3.0 | 0 | 0.0 |
| 13 | 1,709 | 7.6 | 287 | 6.0 | 450 | 7.1 | 390 | 7.5 | 355 | 8.1 | 186 | 10.1 | 39 | 10.2 | 2 | 6.0 | 0 | 0.0 |
| 14 | 3,149 | 6.5 | 405 | 4.6 | 726 | 5.5 | 642 | 6.1 | 554 | 7.2 | 478 | 7.8 | 293 | 8.8 | 50 | 10.9 | 1 | 7.0 |
| 15 | 4,458 | 5.8 | 487 | 3.7 | 910 | 4.2 | 738 | 5.1 | 668 | 6.0 | 571 | 6.3 | 626 | 7.6 | 393 | 8.8 | 65 | 8.4 |
| 16 | 5,481 | 4.7 | 516 | 2.7 | 937 | 3.3 | 784 | 4.0 | 709 | 4.6 | 641 | 5.2 | 675 | 5.6 | 741 | 6.2 | 478 | 6.6 |
| 17 | 5,188 | 3.7 | 545 | 1.9 | 906 | 2.4 | 704 | 3.2 | 611 | 3.5 | 568 | 4.2 | 552 | 4.7 | 606 | 4.9 | 696 | 5.3 |
| 18 | 2,039 | 2.6 | 237 | 1.4 | 487 | 1.8 | 388 | 2.4 | 319 | 2.8 | 291 | 3.4 | 222 | 3.8 | 73 | 4.1 | 22 | 4.2 |
| 19 | 3,351 | 2.5 | .. | .. | 632 | 1.6 | 726 | 1.9 | 579 | 2.3 | 511 | 2.8 | 402 | 3.4 | 370 | 3.7 | 131 | 4.0 |
| 20 | 2,521 | 2.5 | .. | .. | .. | .. | 469 | 1.4 | 475 | 1.8 | 427 | 2.2 | 366 | 2.7 | 400 | 3.2 | 384 | 4.0 |
| 21 | 1,722 | 2.2 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 374 | 1.4 | 376 | 1.9 | 297 | 2.1 | 295 | 2.5 | 380 | 3.3 |
| 22 | 1,219 | 2.1 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 308 | 1.4 | 301 | 1.9 | 287 | 2.2 | 323 | 2.8 |
| 23 | 795 | 1.9 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 272 | 1.4 | 270 | 1.9 | 253 | 2.5 |
| 24 | 518 | 1.7 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 261 | 1.6 | 257 | 1.8 |
| 25 | 223 | 1.7 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 223 | 1.7 |

.. not applicable

Notes:

Age is the age of the offender at the time of the offence.

Excludes 728 cases where the age of onset for the recidivist was unknown.

Recidivists are defined as 18-25 year-olds convicted in 1999/00 who had one or more prior convictions.

Complete adult conviction histories were not available for 24 and 25 year-olds in the study. This reduces the possibility of an age of onset of 18 or 19 years for 25 year-olds, and an age of onset of 18 years for 24 year-olds. Consequently, the proportion of recidivists with an age of onset of 18 or 19 years is slightly understated.

Excludes New Brunswick, Manitoba, British Columbia, and Nunavut.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Youth Court Survey, Adult Criminal Court Survey.

Table 5

**Incarceration rate for cases against recidivists by age on current conviction and age of onset,
Nine provinces and territories in Canada, 1999/00**

| Age of Onset | Age on current conviction | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--------------|---------------------------|-----------|------------|-----------|--------------|-----------|--------------|-----------|--------------|-----------|--------------|-----------|--------------|-----------|--------------|-----------|--------------|-----------|
| | Total incarcerated | | 18 | | 19 | | 20 | | 21 | | 22 | | 23 | | 24 | | 25 | |
| | # | % | # | % | # | % | # | % | # | % | # | % | # | % | # | % | # | % |
| Total | 12,321 | 38 | 995 | 38 | 1,982 | 38 | 1,918 | 38 | 1,749 | 37 | 1,586 | 37 | 1,480 | 37 | 1,382 | 37 | 1,229 | 39 |
| 12 | 433 | 57 | 82 | 59 | 144 | 55 | 130 | 57 | 66 | 59 | 10 | 53 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 100 | 0 | 0 |
| 13 | 851 | 50 | 142 | 50 | 220 | 49 | 189 | 49 | 170 | 48 | 110 | 60 | 19 | 49 | 1 | 50 | 0 | 0 |
| 14 | 1,432 | 46 | 162 | 40 | 309 | 43 | 284 | 45 | 248 | 45 | 242 | 52 | 156 | 53 | 30 | 61 | 1 | 100 |
| 15 | 1,904 | 43 | 186 | 39 | 351 | 39 | 315 | 43 | 300 | 46 | 229 | 41 | 291 | 47 | 201 | 52 | 31 | 48 |
| 16 | 2,044 | 38 | 186 | 36 | 337 | 36 | 288 | 37 | 259 | 37 | 230 | 37 | 260 | 39 | 266 | 36 | 218 | 46 |
| 17 | 1,777 | 35 | 164 | 30 | 273 | 30 | 248 | 35 | 199 | 33 | 196 | 35 | 190 | 35 | 227 | 38 | 280 | 41 |
| 18 | 630 | 31 | 73 | 31 | 151 | 31 | 120 | 31 | 80 | 25 | 96 | 33 | 71 | 32 | 28 | 38 | 11 | 50 |
| 19 | 1,030 | 31 | .. | .. | 197 | 32 | 204 | 29 | 182 | 32 | 146 | 29 | 121 | 30 | 127 | 35 | 53 | 41 |
| 20 | 810 | 32 | .. | .. | .. | .. | 140 | 30 | 146 | 31 | 135 | 32 | 111 | 31 | 143 | 36 | 135 | 36 |
| 21 | 525 | 31 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 99 | 27 | 106 | 29 | 77 | 26 | 83 | 28 | 160 | 43 |
| 22 | 389 | 32 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 86 | 28 | 101 | 34 | 102 | 36 | 100 | 31 |
| 23 | 263 | 33 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 83 | 31 | 99 | 37 | 81 | 33 |
| 24 | 162 | 31 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 74 | 28 | 88 | 35 |
| 25 | 71 | 32 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 71 | 32 |

.. not applicable

Notes:

Age is the age of the offender at the time of the offence.

Recidivists are defined as 18-25 year-olds convicted in 1999/00 who had one or more prior convictions.

Complete adult conviction histories were not available for 24 and 25 year-olds in the study. This reduces the possibility of an age of onset of 18 or 19 years for 25 year-olds, and an age of onset of 18 years for 24 year-olds. Consequently, the proportion of recidivists with an age of onset of 18 or 19 years is slightly understated.

Excludes 728 cases where the age of onset for the recidivist was unknown.

Excludes New Brunswick, Manitoba, British Columbia, and Nunavut.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Youth Court Survey, Adult Criminal Court Survey.

Table 6

**Mean length of custody by offender profile and current conviction offence type,
Nine provinces and territories in Canada, 1999/00**

| Offender profile | Offence Type | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|---------------|------------|---------------------------|------------|-------------------------|------------|---------------------------|-----------|-----------------------|------------|--------------------------------|------------|-----------------------------|------------|
| | Total | | Crimes Against the Person | | Crimes Against Property | | Administration of Justice | | Criminal Code Traffic | | Other Criminal Code Violations | | Other Federal Statute Total | |
| | # | Days | # | Days | # | Days | # | Days | # | Days | # | Days | # | Days |
| Total offenders | 14,486 | 140 | 3,150 | 261 | 5,025 | 136 | 1,509 | 32 | 828 | 85 | 2,520 | 72 | 1,454 | 157 |
| First time offenders | 2,531 | 167 | 631 | 291 | 810 | 123 | 283 | 31 | 189 | 159 | 295 | 102 | 323 | 221 |
| Recidivists | 11,955 | 135 | 2,519 | 253 | 4,215 | 138 | 1,226 | 32 | 639 | 64 | 2,225 | 68 | 1,131 | 139 |
| Single adult conviction recidivists | 1,424 | 139 | 344 | 274 | 468 | 123 | 183 | 19 | 51 | 48 | 167 | 78 | 211 | 128 |
| single prior youth conviction | 431 | 160 | 126 | 312 | 111 | 111 | 42 | 13 | 27 | 44 | 53 | 92 | 72 | 147 |
| multiple prior youth convictions | 993 | 130 | 218 | 251 | 357 | 127 | 141 | 21 | 24 | 52 | 114 | 71 | 139 | 119 |
| Multiple adult convictions recidivists | 10,531 | 134 | 2,175 | 250 | 3,747 | 140 | 1,043 | 34 | 588 | 65 | 2,058 | 67 | 920 | 141 |
| no prior youth convictions | 3,804 | 121 | 751 | 236 | 1,184 | 115 | 375 | 33 | 370 | 67 | 797 | 73 | 327 | 160 |
| single prior youth conviction | 1,679 | 132 | 368 | 288 | 548 | 123 | 188 | 34 | 102 | 41 | 321 | 56 | 152 | 129 |
| multiple prior youth convictions | 5,048 | 144 | 1,056 | 247 | 2,015 | 160 | 480 | 35 | 116 | 78 | 940 | 66 | 441 | 130 |

Notes:

Mean calculations exclude unknown sentences.

Excludes New Brunswick, Manitoba, British Columbia, and Nunavut.

Recidivists are defined as 18-25 year-olds convicted in 1999/00 who had one or more prior convictions.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Youth Court Survey, Adult Criminal Court Survey.

Table 7

**Mean length of probation by offender profile and current conviction offence type,
Nine provinces and territories in Canada, 1999/00**

| Offender profile | Offence Type | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|---------------|------------|---------------------------|------------|-------------------------|------------|---------------------------|------------|-----------------------|------------|--------------------------------|------------|-----------------------------|------------|
| | Total | | Crimes Against the Person | | Crimes Against Property | | Administration of Justice | | Criminal Code Traffic | | Other Criminal Code Violations | | Other Federal Statute Total | |
| | # | Days | # | Days | # | Days | # | Days | # | Days | # | Days | # | Days |
| Total offenders | 25,753 | 449 | 6,703 | 488 | 10,521 | 457 | 743 | 380 | 869 | 326 | 4,126 | 426 | 2,791 | 412 |
| First time offenders | 10,489 | 423 | 2,820 | 452 | 4,480 | 424 | 239 | 390 | 325 | 357 | 1,370 | 416 | 1,255 | 384 |
| Recidivists | 15,264 | 466 | 3,883 | 514 | 6,041 | 482 | 504 | 376 | 544 | 308 | 2,756 | 431 | 1,536 | 435 |
| Single adult conviction recidivists | 3,429 | 439 | 910 | 490 | 1,399 | 444 | 95 | 341 | 68 | 356 | 447 | 430 | 510 | 368 |
| single prior youth conviction | 1,666 | 422 | 467 | 467 | 645 | 421 | 42 | 315 | 37 | 368 | 230 | 428 | 245 | 361 |
| multiple prior youth convictions | 1,763 | 454 | 443 | 514 | 754 | 464 | 53 | 362 | 31 | 342 | 217 | 433 | 265 | 374 |
| Multiple adult convictions recidivists | 11,835 | 474 | 2,973 | 521 | 4,642 | 493 | 409 | 384 | 476 | 301 | 2,309 | 431 | 1,026 | 468 |
| no prior youth convictions | 5,987 | 461 | 1,492 | 503 | 2,294 | 479 | 192 | 370 | 306 | 282 | 1,196 | 426 | 507 | 480 |
| single prior youth conviction | 2,125 | 477 | 529 | 520 | 815 | 501 | 82 | 415 | 85 | 319 | 424 | 431 | 190 | 460 |
| multiple prior youth convictions | 3,723 | 494 | 952 | 549 | 1,533 | 510 | 135 | 385 | 85 | 348 | 689 | 441 | 329 | 455 |

Notes:

Mean calculations exclude unknown sentences.

Excludes New Brunswick, Manitoba, British Columbia, and Nunavut.

Recidivists are defined as 18-25 year-olds convicted in 1999/00 who had one or more prior convictions.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Youth Court Survey, Adult Criminal Court Survey.

Table 8

**Mean amount of fine by offender profile and current conviction offence type,
Nine provinces and territories in Canada, 1999/00**

| Offender profile | Offence Type | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|---------------|------------|---------------------------|------------|-------------------------|------------|---------------------------|------------|-----------------------|------------|--------------------------------|------------|-----------------------------|------------|
| | Total | | Crimes Against the Person | | Crimes Against Property | | Administration of Justice | | Criminal Code Traffic | | Other Criminal Code Violations | | Other Federal Statute Total | |
| | # | \$ | # | \$ | # | \$ | # | \$ | # | \$ | # | \$ | # | \$ |
| Total offenders | 22,629 | 411 | 1,521 | 380 | 4,101 | 304 | 1,554 | 166 | 6,991 | 604 | 3,101 | 276 | 5,361 | 400 |
| First time offenders | 10,471 | 464 | 592 | 384 | 1,426 | 275 | 432 | 157 | 4,509 | 594 | 737 | 299 | 2,775 | 461 |
| Recidivists | 12,158 | 365 | 929 | 377 | 2,675 | 319 | 1,122 | 169 | 2,482 | 624 | 2,364 | 269 | 2,586 | 334 |
| Single adult conviction recidivists | 2,730 | 373 | 192 | 350 | 608 | 336 | 202 | 165 | 705 | 630 | 289 | 254 | 734 | 268 |
| single prior youth conviction | 1,450 | 376 | 103 | 335 | 281 | 273 | 93 | 180 | 441 | 632 | 139 | 223 | 393 | 275 |
| multiple prior youth convictions | 1,280 | 369 | 89 | 366 | 327 | 390 | 109 | 153 | 264 | 627 | 150 | 283 | 341 | 259 |
| Multiple adult convictions recidivists | 9,428 | 363 | 737 | 384 | 2,067 | 315 | 920 | 170 | 1,777 | 621 | 2,075 | 271 | 1,852 | 360 |
| no prior youth convictions | 5,137 | 371 | 384 | 385 | 1,108 | 304 | 448 | 168 | 1,112 | 613 | 1,089 | 272 | 996 | 369 |
| single prior youth conviction | 1,691 | 344 | 139 | 351 | 360 | 305 | 168 | 179 | 296 | 611 | 383 | 249 | 345 | 340 |
| multiple prior youth convictions | 2,600 | 360 | 214 | 406 | 599 | 341 | 304 | 168 | 369 | 653 | 603 | 283 | 511 | 356 |

Notes:

Mean calculations exclude unknown sentences.

Excludes New Brunswick, Manitoba, British Columbia, and Nunavut.

Recidivists are defined as 18-25 year-olds convicted in 1999/00 who had one or more prior convictions.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Youth Court Survey, Adult Criminal Court Survey.

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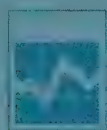
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ADULT CORRECTIONAL SERVICES IN CANADA, 2000/01

by *Dianne Hendrick and Lee Farmer*

Highlights

- In 2000/01, an average of 151,500 offenders were held daily under custodial or community supervision by federal, provincial and territorial correctional service agencies, virtually unchanged from 1999/00.
- Supervision in the community accounted for four-in-five adult offenders under the authority of the correctional service system. In 2000/01, there were 119,900 adult offenders supervised in the community, similar to the previous year. Adults on probation accounted for 8 in 10 offenders in the community, while other offenders either served a conditional sentence, were on parole in the provincial or federal system, or on statutory release in the federal system.
- Inmates held in custody accounted for one-in-five adult offenders under correctional service supervision (31,500 offenders). In 2000/01, more than half (60%) of the inmates were held in provincial/territorial facilities, consistent with previous years.
- The incarceration rate was 133 adult inmates per 100,000 adults in 2000/01, down 2% from the previous year. The incarceration rate refers to the average count of adults in custody (in temporary detention, remand, or sentenced custody) compared to the adult population. This rate has decreased by 13% since peaking at 153 in 1994/95.
- Over the year 2000/01, a total of 235,000 adults were admitted to custody in the provincial/territorial and federal system, an increase of 3% from the previous year. Admissions to remand accounted for half of provincial/territorial custodial admissions, sentenced custody admissions for 36% and temporary detention (e.g. immigration holds) accounted for 11% of provincial/territorial custodial admissions. Admissions to federal custody accounted for 3% of total admissions.
- The number of admissions to provincial/territorial custody increased for the second consecutive year, largely due to the increase in remand admissions, rather than sentenced admissions. Admissions to remand increased by 8% from the previous year to 118,600 adults in 2000/01, while sentenced admissions decreased by 5% to 80,928.
- As in previous years, almost half (48%) of sentenced custody admissions to provincial/territorial institutions in 2000/01 were short-term sentences (one month or less), while almost half of sentenced admissions to federal institutions were for terms under three years.
- There were 17,084 conditional sentence program admissions in 2000/01, an increase of 17% from 1997/98.
- The cost of all correctional services in 2000/01 was almost \$2.5 billion, up 4% from the previous year. Incarceration costs accounted for 75% of the total cost whereas community supervision programs accounted for 13%, and headquarters and parole boards for 12%.



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Introduction

This *Juristat* provides information for 2000/01 and for recent trends in the adult correctional system and the adult correctional population, including the supervision of offenders in prison and in the community and the cost of these services. The administration of correctional services in Canada is shared by the federal government and the provincial/territorial governments.

Federal services are provided by the Correctional Service Canada (CSC) and, in general, an offender sentenced to custody by the court for a term of two years or more is supervised by CSC. In the community, the federal government also has responsibility for statutory release and parole supervision. The National Parole Board (NPB) is responsible for the administration of parole in all jurisdictions except Ontario, Quebec and British Columbia, where provincial parole boards have been established. Provincial and territorial governments are responsible for the provision of all other correctional services, including a court sentence of less than two years in custody; custody on remand (while the case is being adjudicated); other forms of temporary detention (e.g. immigration holds), and supervision in the community (e.g. probation and conditional sentences). Probation and conditional sentences are types of sentences ordered by the court and supervised in the community, while parole and statutory release are releases into the community as part of a custody sentence.

Correctional Facilities

In 2000/01, there were 211 correctional facilities across Canada. Three in ten of these facilities were under federal jurisdiction: 17 facilities were federal community correctional centres with a capacity of 526 spaces, and 51 were federal institutions with 13,696 spaces. Federal facilities provided 39% of the total institutional capacity in Canada and capacity has increased by 10% since 1995/96. A total operational capacity of 20,240 spaces was reported in 140 provincial/territorial facilities in 2000/01. Eighty-two percent (115) of these facilities were secure and the remainder (25) were open custody facilities (e.g. halfway houses). In general, provincial/territorial capacity has remained relatively constant over recent years.

Overview of the Adult Correctional Population

The data in this *Juristat* are drawn from two surveys conducted by the Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, the Adult Correctional Services (ACS) Survey and the Resources, Expenditures and Personnel (REP) Survey for correctional services. The report begins with a look at a snapshot of the caseload of the correctional sector by examining the average number (count) of adults under supervision each day in the provincial/territorial and federal systems. Next, the case-flow into each component of the correctional sector is examined using admission statistics. Admission statistics are also used to describe the characteristics of the adults in the system. Parole outcomes and costs associated with the administration of the correctional system are also discussed. More detailed data are available in the Adult Correctional Services in Canada, Data Tables, 2000/01 (Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, 2002).

THE OFFENDER COUNT IN THE CORRECTIONAL SYSTEM

On any given day in 2000/01, there was an average of 151,500 adults either in custody or under supervision in the community, virtually unchanged from 1999/00. Nearly 120,000 offenders (79%) were supervised in the community, and were most often on probation (66%) (see Text Table 1). Other offenders in the community were serving a conditional sentence (9,885) or were on community release (8,034).

Overall, 21% of the adult correctional population were in custody in 2000/01. Sentenced inmates in custody accounted for 16% of offenders; the average number in federal custody was higher than under provincial/territorial sentenced custody (12,732 versus 10,953). Other offenders in provincial/territorial custody were on remand status (7,428) or subject to some other temporary detention (434) such as immigration matters (see Table 1).

Measures of Correctional Activity: Inmate Counts and Admissions

This report makes use of two different indicators that describe the use of correctional services: (i) the average number or count of offenders on any given day; and (ii) the number of annual admissions to correctional facilities or to community supervision programs.

Average counts of inmates in custody, or serving a sentence in the community at a given point in time, provide a snapshot of the daily correctional population and are used to calculate an annual average count. Managers in correctional services use average counts as an operational measure, and also as formal indicators of the utilization of bed space in institutions. Typically, correctional officials perform daily counts of inmates in their facility and monthly counts of offenders under community supervision.

Admission data are collected when an offender enters the institution or community supervision program. While admission data describe and measure the changing case-flow of correctional agencies over time, they do not indicate the number of unique individuals using the correctional system. The same person could be included several times in the admission counts where the individual moves from one type of correctional service to another (e.g. from remand to sentenced custody) or re-enters the system in the same year. Although the Adult Correctional Services Survey attempts to standardise the way in which status changes are counted, limitations due to differences among jurisdictional operational systems may restrict uniform application of the definitions in some situations. For this reason, inter-jurisdictional comparisons of the number of admissions should be made with caution. Nevertheless, as a result of consistent counting practices within jurisdictions over time, statements may be made about the trends within each jurisdiction.

Text Table 1



Composition of the Adult Correctional Population, 1996/97 and 2000/01

| | 1996/97 | | 2000/01 | |
|---|---------------------|--------------|---------------------|--------------|
| | Average daily count | % | Average daily count | % |
| <i>Custodial Supervision:</i> | | | | |
| Provincial/territorial custody, sentenced | 13,522 | 8.9 | 10,953 | 7.2 |
| Remand | 5,734 | 3.8 | 7,428 | 4.9 |
| Other temporary detention, provincial/territorial | 269 | 0.2 | 434 | 0.3 |
| Federal custody, sentenced | 14,197 | 9.4 | 12,732 | 8.4 |
| Total custodial supervision | 33,722 | 22.3 | 31,547 | 20.8 |
| <i>Community Supervision:</i> | | | | |
| Probation | 103,630 | 68.5 | 100,526 | 66.4 |
| Provincial parole | 3,146 | 2.1 | 1,474 | 1.0 |
| Conditional sentences | 3,387 | 2.2 | 9,885 | 6.5 |
| Community releases (NPB) | 7,405 | 4.9 | 8,034 | 5.3 |
| Total community supervision | 117,568 | 77.7 | 119,919 | 79.2 |
| Total | 151,290 | 100.0 | 151,466 | 100.0 |

Source: Adult Correctional Services Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics.

Definitions:

Custodial Supervision/Custody: refers to detention in a secure facility (prison) and is comprised of sentenced custody, remand and temporary detention.

Sentenced Custody: refers to inmates in custody serving a prison sentence, either federal (2 years or more) or provincial (less than 2 years).

Remand: refers to a person ordered by the court to be held in custody while awaiting a further court appearance.

Temporary detention: refers to inmates held in custody (who are not on remand or sentenced) for other reasons, e.g. immigration matters, parole suspension.

Community Supervision: refers to the supervision of offenders on probation, conditional sentence, and community release (parole/statutory release). Offenders in the community are often supervised by a probation or parole officer.

Probation: refers to a disposition of the court where the offender is ordered a suspended sentence and is released on conditions prescribed in a probation order. Alternatively, in addition to a fine or a sentence, the court may direct the offender to comply with conditions of a probation order.

Conditional sentence: refers to a disposition of the court where the offender serves a term of imprisonment in the community under conditions.

Parole: refers to programs of conditional release from custody into the community under the authority of parole boards.

Provincial parole: refers to the administrative tribunals in Quebec, Ontario or British Columbia that have the authority to grant, deny, terminate or revoke parole in their jurisdiction.

Community Releases: refers to the supervision of offenders by Correctional Service Canada on day parole, full parole, and statutory release. The National Parole Board (NPB) has the authority to grant, deny, terminate or revoke parole, to terminate or revoke statutory release, detain certain offenders, and grant unescorted temporary absences.

Day parole: refers to a release into the community for an offender granted by the NPB or provincial parole board to prepare the offender for full parole or statutory release. The conditions require the offender to return to a penitentiary, a community-based residential facility or a provincial correctional facility each night.

Full Parole: refers to a release into the community to serve part of their prison sentence. Offenders are under supervision by a parole officer and are required to abide by conditions designed to reduce the risk of re-offending and to foster re-integration into the community. Federal offenders serving determinate sentences are eligible to apply for parole after serving one third of their sentence.

Statutory release: refers to federal offenders who must be released into the community after serving two thirds of their sentence, unless they are detained by the NPB, or waive statutory release.

Remand in the Criminal Justice System

Remand is a major component of custodial services in provincial/territorial facilities. Adults may be ordered by the court to be held in custody on remand for several reasons: there is a risk that they will fail to appear for their court date; they pose a danger to themselves and/or others; they present a risk to re-offend; or where detention is necessary in order to maintain confidence in the administration of justice. For most offences, the onus is on the prosecutor to establish justification for detaining persons in custody prior to the adjudication of the court case. As an alternative to remand, the court may release the accused on an order of 'judicial interim release' (bail) on their own recognizance. The accused may be required to deposit funds and/or abide by specific conditions as directed by the court.

Trends in Custodial Counts

One-in-five adults under supervision is in custody

In total, a daily average of 31,547 adults or 133 adults per 100,000 population was held in custody in 2000/01, down 2% from the previous year. Of all adults in custody, 35% were in provincial/territorial custody under sentence (10,953), 40% were in federal custodial facilities under sentence (12,732), and 25% were in provincial facilities on remand or temporary detention (7,862).

Incarceration Rates

The Adult Correctional Services Survey calculates the incarceration rate as adult inmates (sentenced, remand and temporary detention) per 100,000 adult population using the average in custody counts, a method to facilitate international comparisons and provide an indicator of the national adult population that is incarcerated, taking into account changes in the population over time. In this report, rates are also calculated for sentenced custody (sentenced custody rates) and remand (remand rates).

The incarceration rate in 2000/01 was down 5% compared to 1990/91, when it was 140 inmates per 100,000 adults. The rate had increased annually from 1990/91 to a peak in 1994/95, and then decreased in each following year (see Text Table 2, Table 2). From 1994/95 to 2000/01, the incarceration rate decreased by 13%. While the incarceration rate for federal custody followed a similar pattern for many years in the 1990s, the rate in 2000/01 returned to about the level reported ten years earlier (54 inmates per 100,000 adults). In contrast, the provincial/territorial incarceration rate varied slightly from 1991/92 to 1995/96, and then decreased to a rate of 80 inmates per 100,000.

However, the 7% decrease in the provincial/territorial incarceration rate over the eleven year period occurred in only one component, the sentenced custody rate (see Figure 1). While the sentenced custody rate declined by 27% from 63 inmates per 100,000 adults in 1990/91 to 46 per 100,000 adults in 2000/01, the rate of remand increased by 35% from 23 to 31 per 100,000 adults during these years.¹

Increases in the remand population have occurred despite a 17% decrease in the number of adults charged with federal statute offences during these years. The trends of sentenced and remand rates in recent years may be partially attributed to longer durations of time spent in remand and changes to the administrative processes in the jurisdictions. Given the 'high security' nature of remand facilities, the increase of this population impacts on the cost of corrections and management of the custodial corrections population.

¹ Remand will be more fully explored in an upcoming Juristat prepared by the CCJS.

Text Table 2

Trends in Incarceration Rates, 1990/91 to 2000/01

| | Provincial/Territorial incarceration | | Federal incarceration | | Total incarceration | |
|---------|--------------------------------------|----------|----------------------------------|----------|----------------------------------|----------|
| | Average count per 100,000 adults | % change | Average count per 100,000 adults | % change | Average count per 100,000 adults | % change |
| 1990/91 | 86 | ... | 54 | ... | 140 | ... |
| 1991/92 | 90 | 4.2 | 56 | 3.1 | 145 | 3.7 |
| 1992/93 | 91 | 1.1 | 58 | 3.5 | 148 | 1.7 |
| 1993/94 | 90 | -0.7 | 62 | 6.6 | 151 | 2.0 |
| 1994/95 | 90 | 0.4 | 64 | 3.3 | 153 | 1.5 |
| 1995/96 | 89 | -1.7 | 63 | -0.4 | 152 | -0.3 |
| 1996/97 | 87 | -2.3 | 63 | -0.4 | 150 | -1.5 |
| 1997/98 | 83 | -4.3 | 60 | -4.4 | 144 | -4.3 |
| 1998/99 | 83 | 0.1 | 57 | -5.5 | 140 | -2.2 |
| 1999/00 | 80 | -4.2 | 56 | -2.7 | 135 | -3.6 |
| 2000/01 | 80 | 0.2 | 54 | -3.1 | 133 | -2.0 |

Note: Rates may not aggregate to totals due to rounding.

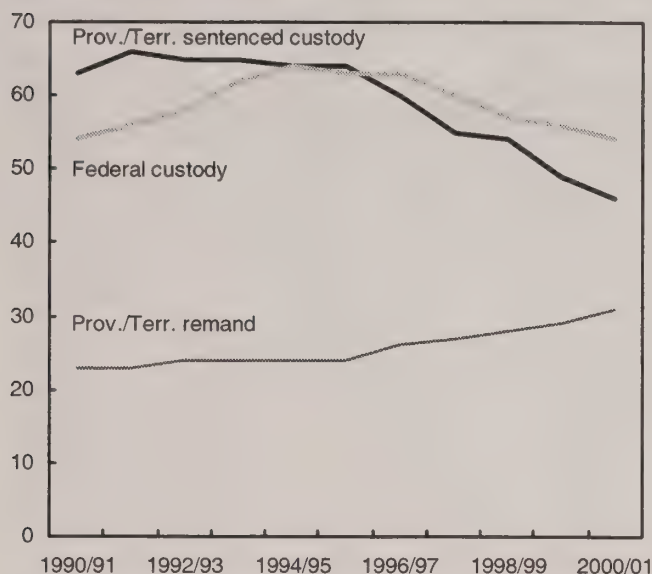
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Source: Adult Correctional Services Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics

Figure 1

Current incarceration rates decrease for inmates serving a sentence as remand rates increase

Average count per 100,000 adults



Sources: Adult Correctional Services Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics.

In 2000/01, the lowest incarceration rates among the provinces were reported in Nova Scotia (47 per 100,000), New Brunswick (48) and Quebec (56), while the rates were highest in Saskatchewan (150) and Manitoba (130). Territorial incarceration rates tend to be much higher and fluctuate a great deal due to their relatively small populations (see Text Table 3).

Trends in Community Supervision Counts

On any given day in 2000/01, there was an average of 111,885 provincial/territorial offenders being supervised in the community, representing three quarters of the total correctional population. Of these offenders, 90% were on probation, 9% were serving a conditional sentence and 1% were on provincial parole. Correctional Service Canada supervised offenders on statutory release and parole, an average of 8,034 offenders in 2000/01. Compared to the previous year, the average counts of offenders in the community remained relatively stable (see Text Table 4).

Conditional Sentences

In September of 1996, the Sentencing Reform Bill (C-41) was enacted into law creating a new sentencing option – the conditional sentence. Like probation, conditional sentences are intended to be served in the community, but there are differences. These differences were enunciated by the Supreme Court of Canada in *R. v. Proulx* (2000). The Supreme Court indicated that conditional sentences were not to be confused with probation. While probation focuses on rehabilitation as its primary objective, conditional sentences are intended to provide both denunciation and rehabilitation. This means there should be a punitive element in the form of restrictions on liberty, such as house arrest. These restrictions, the Court stated, ought to be the norm, not the exception. In addition to restrictions on movement, more onerous conditions than those imposed under probation may be appropriate.

Text Table 3

Average Daily Count of Offenders in Custody, 2000/01

| | Sentenced Custody | Remand | Other temporary | Total | Incarceration Rate Average count per 100,000 adults |
|------------------------------|-------------------|--------|-----------------|---------------|--|
| Newfoundland and Labrador | 225 | 54 | 10 | 288 | 69 |
| Prince Edward Island | 73 | 10 | 3 | 86 | 82 |
| Nova Scotia | 222 | 109 | 10 | 341 | 47 |
| New Brunswick ¹ | 204 | 71 | 8 | 283 | 48 |
| Quebec | 2,011 | 1,197 | 16 | 3,224 | 56 |
| Ontario | 3,737 | 3,700 | 188 | 7,625 | 83 |
| Manitoba | 596 | 520 | .. | 1,116 | 130 |
| Saskatchewan | 826 | 304 | 0 | 1,130 | 150 |
| Alberta | 1,323 | 580 | 0 | 1,903 | 85 |
| British Columbia | 1,476 | 811 | 199 | 2,486 | 79 |
| Yukon | 35 | 18 | 0 | 53 | 235 |
| Northwest Territories | 163 | 28 | 0 | 191 | 684 |
| Nunavut | 63 | 26 | 0 | 89 | 571 |
| Provincial/Territorial Total | 10,953 | 7,428 | 434 | 18,815 | 80 |
| Federal Total | 12,732 | . | . | 12,732 | 54 |
| TOTAL | 23,685 | . | . | 31,547 | 133 |

Note: Rates may not aggregate to totals due to rounding.

.. not available for any reference period

.. not available for specific reference period

¹ New Brunswick data for 2000/01 are extracted from a new operational system: caution is recommended when making comparisons over time.

Source: Adult Correctional Services Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics

Correctional service operational expenditures

Correctional service expenditures at the operational level totalled \$2.5 billion in 2000/01, up 4% from the previous year. (These costs include expenditures on headquarters and central services, community supervision and parole boards.) In 2000/01, 52% was spent in the federal system and 48% in provincial/territorial correctional systems. Provincial and Federal custodial services accounted for the largest proportion of total expenditures, 39% and 36% respectively, followed by Federal Headquarters and Parole board costs (10%), Provincial supervision costs (7%), Federal supervision costs (6%), and Provincial Headquarters and Parole Board costs (2%). Since 1995/96, operational expenditures, on a constant dollar basis, increased by 17% overall; 12% in the provincial/territorial system and 23% in the federal system.

Expenses per Inmate, 2000/01 (current dollars)

| | Total Institutional Operating Costs ¹ | % change | Per capita cost | % change | Daily cost per inmate | % change |
|-------------------------------------|---|-------------|--------------------|-------------|--------------------------|-------------|
| | (\$'000) | | (\$) | | (\$) | |
| Newfoundland and Labrador | 17,626 | -0.9 | 39.00 | 0.2 | 167.43 | -4.3 |
| Prince Edward Island | 4,248 | 1.2 | 41.86 | 4.3 | 135.74 | -2.7 |
| Nova Scotia | 19,800 | 0.5 | 27.46 | 0.5 | 159.36 | 3.4 |
| New Brunswick | 11,509 | -7.1 | 25.45 | 19.5 | 88.08 | 2.0 |
| Quebec | 135,437 | 11.4 | 24.98 | 8.8 | 115.10 | 8.3 |
| Ontario | 423,047 | 8.5 | 42.98 | 6.3 | 151.86 | 5.0 |
| Manitoba | 46,897 | 8.2 | 53.27 | 9.2 | 115.15 | 6.8 |
| Saskatchewan | 51,792 | 4.9 | 59.73 | 5.4 | 125.57 | 6.5 |
| Alberta | 66,417 | 7.5 | 29.55 | 9.2 | 95.62 | 11.6 |
| British Columbia | 146,491 | 6.3 | 45.56 | 5.4 | 161.44 | 9.6 |
| Yukon | 6,097 | 2.4 | 270.00 | 4.3 | 314.64 | 19.0 |
| Northwest Territories | 13,875 | 39.2 | 382.95 | 49.1 | 199.02 | 71.7 |
| Nunavut | 4,725 | 38.9 | 241.99 | 91.1 | 145.29 | -10.3 |
| <i>Provincial/Territorial total</i> | <i>947,961</i> | <i>8.1</i> | <i>38.46</i> | <i>0.0</i> | <i>137.44</i> | <i>7.3</i> |
| <i>Federal CSC</i> | <i>879,300</i> | <i>1.1</i> | <i>41.28</i> | <i>-1.0</i> | <i>189.21</i> | <i>3.0</i> |
| Total | 1,827,261 | 4.6 | | | | |

¹ not available for any reference period

¹ Excludes expenditures on headquarters, community supervision and parole boards.

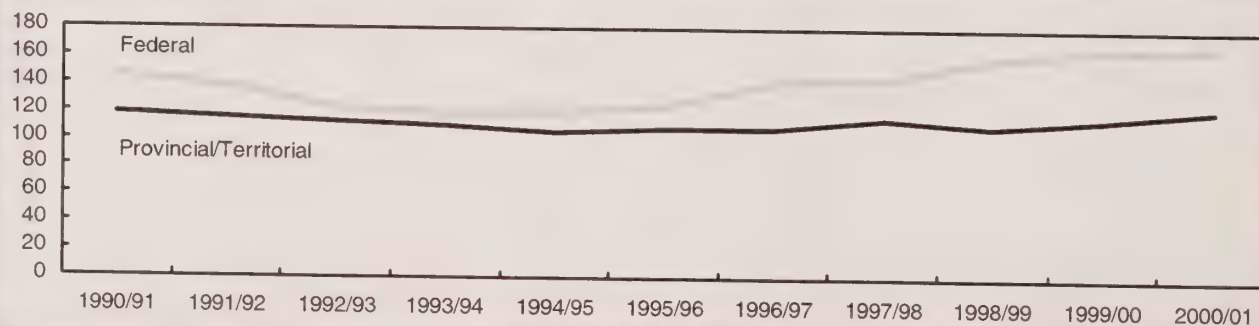
Source: Adult Correctional Services Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics

The differences in the costs of the two correctional systems are more evident in a study of the costs per inmate per day. In the federal system, an inmate cost Canadians \$189.21 per day whereas \$137.44 was spent per inmate daily in the provincial/territorial system. The difference in inmate costs is the result of a number of factors such as the higher level of security required at federal facilities, and the requirement to provide more extensive programming for offenders serving longer sentences.

After adjusting for the effects of inflation, daily inmate costs declined in the provincial/territorial (down 8%) and federal correctional systems (down 16%) from 1990/91 to 1995/96. Since 1995/96, both systems have increased custodial expenditures, however, by 2000/01, federal daily inmate costs have increased more rapidly (up 43%) than provincial inmate costs (up 13%).

Daily cost per inmate increase

Constant 1992 Dollars



Sources: Adult Correctional Services Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics.

Text Table 4

Trends in Community Supervision, 1990/91 to 2000/01

| | Probation | | Provincial Parole | | Conditional Sentences | | Federal Community Release ¹ | | Total Community | |
|---------|----------------------|----------|-------------------|----------|-----------------------|----------|--|----------|----------------------|----------|
| | Average count | % change | Average count | % change | Average count | % change | Average count | % change | Average count | % change |
| 1990/91 | 82,091 ^r | ... | 2,544 | ... | ... | ... | 9,406 ^r | ... | 94,041 ^r | .. |
| 1991/92 | 93,314 ^r | 13.7 | 2,656 | 4.4 | ... | ... | 9,707 ^r | 3.2 | 105,677 ^r | 12.4 |
| 1992/93 | 100,386 ^r | 7.6 | 3,193 | 20.2 | ... | ... | 9,914 ^r | 2.1 | 113,493 ^r | 7.4 |
| 1993/94 | 102,402 | 1.9 | 3,860 | 20.9 | ... | ... | 10,132 ^r | 2.2 | 116,394 ^r | 2.5 |
| 1994/95 | 100,955 | -1.3 | 3,676 | -4.8 | ... | ... | 9,422 | -7.0 | 114,053 | -1.9 |
| 1995/96 | 101,918 ^r | 1.0 | 3,212 | -12.6 | ... | ... | 9,272 ^r | -1.6 | 114,402 ^r | 0.3 |
| 1996/97 | 103,630 | 1.7 | 3,146 | -2.1 | ... | ... | 7,405 | -20.1 | 114,181 | -0.2 |
| 1997/98 | 106,405 | 2.7 | 2,507 | -20.3 | 6,818 | ... | 7,479 | 1.0 | 123,209 ^r | 7.9 |
| 1998/99 | 101,868 | -4.3 | 2,147 | -14.4 | 7,627 | 11.1 | 7,786 ^r | 4.1 | 119,428 ^r | -3.1 |
| 1999/00 | 102,860 | 1.0 | 1,900 | -11.5 | 8,984 | 17.8 | 8,095 | 4.0 | 121,839 | 2.0 |
| 2000/01 | 100,526 | -2.3 | 1,474 | -22.4 | 9,885 | 10.0 | 8,034 | -0.8 | 119,919 | -1.6 |

.. not available for specific reference period

... not applicable

^r revised

¹ Refers to all conditional release for offenders supervised by the National Parole Board.

Source: Adult Correctional Services Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics

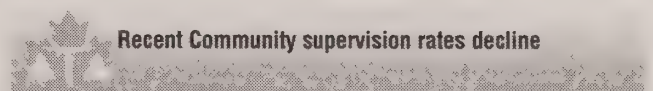
Community supervision rates on downward trend

The rate of community supervision increased rapidly during the early 1990's, from 451 offenders per 100,000 adults in 1990/91 to 507 offenders per 100,000 in 2000/01. The growth, however, occurred only in provincial/territorial corrections, up 16% during these years (see Figure 2) from 406 offenders per 100,000 in 1990/91 to 473 offenders per 100,000 in 2000/01. Nevertheless, the current rate was down 7% compared with 1997/98. During this eleven-year period, the rate of offenders on federal conditional release decreased by 25%, from 45 offenders per 100,000 adults in 1990/91 to 34 federal offenders per 100,000 adults in 2000/01.

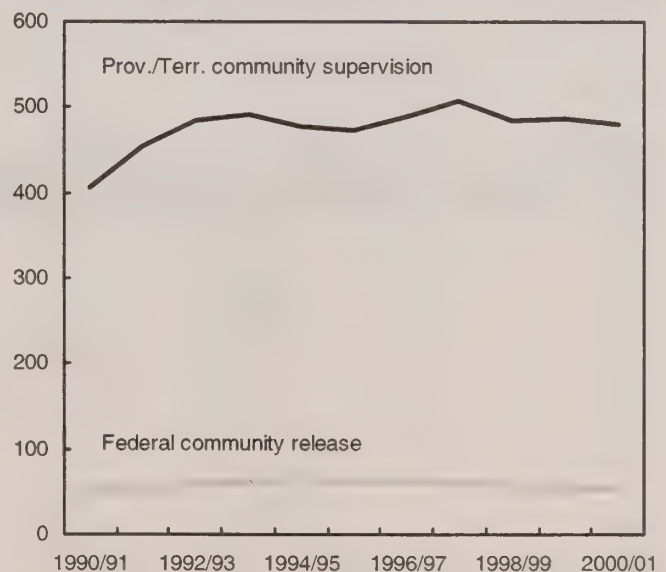
Conditional sentence rates on upward trend

The average daily number of offenders in Canada supervised in the community pursuant to a conditional sentence has increased each year since the measure was introduced in 1996 (see Table 3, Figure 5). In 1997/98, the first year for which full data are available, the average daily number of offenders supervised on a conditional sentence was 6,818 in nine jurisdictions. Since then, the annual daily average has increased to 9,885 in 2000/01, a 10% increase over the previous year and a 44% increase since 1997/98. In 2000/01, three provinces (Quebec, Saskatchewan and British Columbia) reported an average daily count of offenders on conditional sentences that exceeded those in sentenced custody.

Figure 2



Average count per 100,000 adults



Sources: Adult Correctional Services Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics.

CASE-FLOW IN THE CORRECTIONAL SYSTEM

Admissions - a measure of case-flow

While the average counts of offenders provide a picture of a typical day in the correctional system, admissions provide an indicator of the volume of cases entering the correctional system and its programs over the entire year. Admissions also reflect the workload associated with the processing of offenders, and can be better related to police and court statistics.

Various admission counts summarize the number of remands, new program commencements in sentenced custody, conditional sentences or community supervision. Note that an offender may commence supervision on remand, proceed to sentenced custody, and then to probation; each of these program-based admissions will be counted separately. As a result, the same adult may be counted more than once for each program commenced while under continuous supervision.

Jurisdictional counting systems are based on local priorities and information needs that may differ, sometimes substantially, from one jurisdiction to another. As a result, inter-jurisdictional comparisons should be made with caution.

Since admissions are a case-flow measure, admission rates per 10,000 adults charged are calculated to remove variations in the number of admissions over time attributable to changes in the number of adults being charged by police. The number of adults charged per year are provided by the Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, CCJS.

Few admissions to the federal correctional system

In 2000/01, there were 344,493 admissions to the adult correctional system, a 3% increase from the previous year (see Table 4). Most admissions (97%) were administered by the provincial/territorial correctional system. Remand accounted for 35% of all admissions from twelve reporting jurisdictions² (118,566), while probation (81,939) and sentenced custody in provincial/territorial corrections (80,928) each accounted for 24%. Other/temporary detention (7%),

conditional sentences (5%), and federal sentences and conditional releases (2% each) accounted for a small proportion of admissions. Compared to the previous year, increases in admissions occurred in remand (up 8%), other/temporary detention (up 16%), probation (up 3%), and conditional sentences (up 8%). Sentenced custody in provincial/territorial corrections declined by 4%, while federal custody admissions remained stable.

Long Term Trends in Custodial Admission Rates

In 2000/01, there were 4,556 admissions to custody per 10,000 adults charged by police (see Text Table 5, Table 5). The provincial/territorial custody (4,406 per 10,000) rate was up 3% while the federal custody (150 per 10,000) rate remained similar to the previous year. Over the past eleven years, the total custody admission rate increased by 30%. The rate had increased annually from 1990/91 to 1994/95, remained relatively stable until 1997/98, decreased the following year, and increased by 4% in 1999/00 and 3% in 2000/01.

While the federal custody admission rate per 10,000 adults charged fluctuated during the 11-year period, it increased by 50% compared with 1990/91 (150 versus 100 per 10,000 adults charged). The provincial/territorial custody rate increased by 31% during these years (3,356 versus 4,406). However, like the average daily count, the trends in the components of provincial/territorial custody diverged (see Table 5, Figure 3). The provincial/territorial admission rate to sentenced custody decreased by 15% from 1,854 admissions per 10,000 in 1990/91, to a rate of 1,569 in 2000/01. In contrast, the admission rate to remand increased considerably, from 1,486 admissions per 10,000 adults charged in 1990/91 to a rate of 2,299 in 2000/01, up 55%.

² The provincial/territorial admissions for remand, sentenced custody and other temporary custody exclude New Brunswick.

Text Table 5

Trends in Custodial Admission Rates, 1992/93 to 2000/01

| | Provincial/Territorial | | Federal | | Total | |
|----------------------|--|----------|--|----------|--|----------|
| | Custodial admissions per 10,000 adults charged | % change | Custodial admissions per 10,000 adults charged | % change | Custodial admissions per 10,000 adults charged | % change |
| 1992/93 | 3,766 | ... | 119 | ... | 3,884 | ... |
| 1993/94 | 3,900 | 3.5 | 139 | 17.3 | 4,038 | 4.0 |
| 1994/95 | 4,146 | 6.3 | 158 | 0.5 | 4,285 | 6.1 |
| 1995/96 | 4,163 | 0.4 | 142 | 1.9 | 4,305 | 0.5 |
| 1996/97 | 4,170 | 0.2 | 136 | -4.5 | 4,306 | 0.0 |
| 1997/98 | 4,222 | 1.2 | 139 | 2.9 | 4,361 | 1.3 |
| 1998/99 | 4,101 | -2.8 | 152 | 9.2 | 4,254 | -2.5 |
| 1999/00 | 4,292 | 4.7 | 149 | -1.9 | 4,442 | 4.4 |
| 2000/01 ¹ | 4,406 | 2.7 | 150 | 0.2 | 4,556 | 2.6 |

Note: Rates may not aggregate to totals due to rounding.

... not applicable

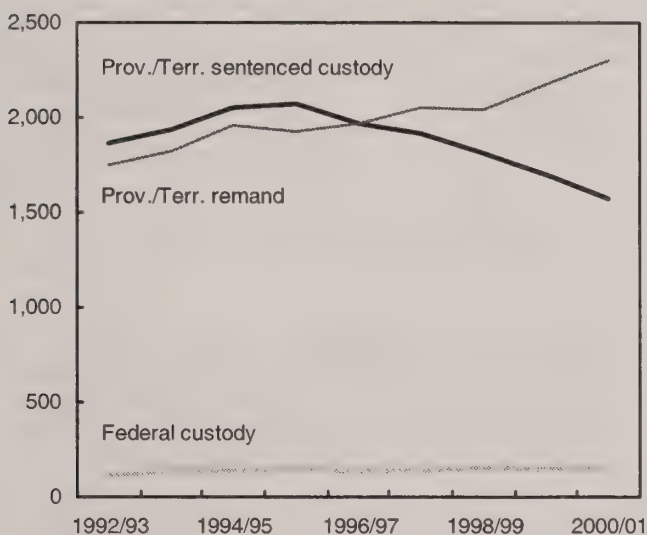
¹ New Brunswick and Manitoba data for 2000/01 (and 1999/00) are extracted from a new operational system: caution is recommended when making comparisons over time.

Source: Adult Correctional Services Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics

Figure 3

Admission rates for remand custody increase as Provincial/Territorial sentenced custody rates decrease

Admissions per 10,000 adults charged



Sources: Adult Correctional Services Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics.

Current year profile

In 2000/01, the lowest custody rates in the provincial custodial system were generally reported by the Atlantic Provinces, with Newfoundland and Labrador reporting a low of 1,817 per 10,000 charged, while the highest were in Manitoba (5,267 per 10,000) and British Columbia (4,845 per 10,000) (see Text Table 6).

Most inmates are incarcerated for non-violent offences

Most offenders admitted to custody are sentenced under the provisions of the *Criminal Code*, while others are incarcerated pursuant to a variety of other federal acts (e.g. the *Controlled Drugs and Substances Act*, the *Canada Shipping Act*, the *Excise Act*, and the *Immigration Act*) and provincial legislation. Fine default admissions are also reported and may be related to any type of offence previously sanctioned by a fine.

The jurisdictions varied considerably in the offence profile for incarcerated offenders in the provincial/territorial correctional system (see Table 6). In 2000/01, violent crime admissions accounted for a larger proportion of the sentenced admissions compared to property offences in Manitoba (46% versus 21%) and Saskatchewan (31% versus 19%). In contrast, violent crimes accounted for a smaller proportion of sentenced admissions in Prince Edward Island (10% versus 32%), Alberta (9% versus 22%), British Columbia (16% versus 27%) and Quebec (5% versus 10%). The differences in the violent/property offence profile were smaller in Newfoundland (29%

Text Table 6

Adult Admissions to Custody, 2000/01

| | Sentenced Custody | Remand | Other temporary detention | Total | Custodial Admissions per 10,000 adults charged |
|------------------------------|-------------------|----------|---------------------------|----------------|--|
| Newfoundland and Labrador | 944 | 388 | 0 | 1,332 | 1,817 |
| Prince Edward Island | 586 | 176 | 0 | 762 | 4,415 |
| Nova Scotia | 1,624 | 1,758 | 406 | 3,788 | 2,779 |
| New Brunswick ¹ | .. | .. | .. | 2,884 | 2,442 |
| Quebec | 14,951 | 26,063 | 2,897 | 43,911 | 4,742 |
| Ontario | 30,999 | 52,179 | 3,239 | 86,417 | 4,727 |
| Manitoba | 2,901 | 6,955 | 4,924 | 14,780 | 5,267 |
| Saskatchewan | 3,219 | 9,548 | 222 | 12,989 | 3,708 |
| Alberta | 14,859 | 8,179 | 0 | 23,038 | 3,484 |
| British Columbia | 9,520 | 12,185 | 13,199 | 34,904 | 4,845 |
| Yukon | 294 | 302 | 13 | 609 | 4,413 |
| Northwest Territories | 802 | 628 | 1 | 1,431 | 7,985 |
| Nunavut | 229 | 205 | 0 | 434 | 2,960 |
| Provincial/Territorial Total | 80,928 | 118,566 | 24,901 | 222,779 | 4,406 |
| | Sentenced Custody | Revoked | Other | Total | |
| Federal Total | 4,272 | 3,272 | 179 | 7,723 | 150 |
| TOTAL | 85,200 | . | . | 235,002 | 4,556 |

Note: Rates may not aggregate to totals due to rounding.

.. not available for any reference period

.. not available for specific reference period

¹ New Brunswick data excluded from sentenced, remand, other temporary detention admissions. New Brunswick total admissions and all custody admissions for Manitoba are extracted from a new operational system; caution is recommended when making comparisons over time.

Source: Adult Correctional Services Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics

versus 26%), Yukon (20% versus 18%), Nova Scotia (19% versus 21%) and Ontario (27% versus 28%).

In the federal system, 53% of sentenced admissions involved a violent crime as the most serious offence, property crime admissions accounted for 18%, and drug-related admissions for 17%.

Time served in provincial/territorial custody is short

Time served on remand is short; half of the remand releases had less than seven days in custody in 2000/01 (see Text Table 7). The median ranged from four in British Columbia to eight days in Ontario among the eight reporting jurisdictions. However, the proportion of remand with more than one week in custody has been increasing over time, from 32% in 1995/96 to 48% in 2000/01.

Text Table 7

| Duration of Remand Admissions, 1995/96 and 2000/01 | | |
|---|---------------|----------------|
| | 1995/96 | 2000/01 |
| | % | % |
| 1 week or less | 66 | 53 |
| More than 1 week & less than 3 months | 30 | 40 |
| 3 months or more | 2 | 8 |
| Total admissions | 89,795 | 101,769 |

Note: Percentage distribution may not aggregate to totals due to rounding.
Source: Adult Correctional Services Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics

Nearly three quarters of admissions to sentenced custody in the provincial/territorial correctional system are three months or less in duration (see Text Table 8). In 2000/01, 48% of admissions to provincial/territorial custody under sentence were less than 1 month, and 26% were between 1 and 3 months. For the eight reporting jurisdictions, the median time served in sentenced custody ranged from 28 days in Quebec to 119 days in Saskatchewan.

In the federal system, terms under three years were ordered for just under half of admissions to custody under sentence in 2000/01 (47%), and 21% were between 3 and 4 years. Four percent of sentenced admissions to federal custody were life sentences. Since 1990/91, the percentage of admissions for life sentences has remained stable.

An adult in sentenced custody is most often male between the ages of 18 and 34

The majority of inmates in sentenced custody are male (see Text Table 9). While the proportion of women continues to be considerably small, it has been on the increase. Women constituted 9% of provincial/territorial admissions and 5% of federal admissions in 2000/01, up from 6% and 3% respectively, compared to ten years earlier.

Text Table 8

| Length of Aggregate Sentence, Sentenced Admissions, 2000/01 | | | |
|--|----|-------------------------------|----|
| Provincial/Territorial Sentenced Custody | | Federal Custody | |
| | % | | % |
| 31 days or less | 48 | 2 years <3 years | 47 |
| >1 to 3 months | 26 | 3 years <4 years | 21 |
| >3 to 6 months | 12 | 4 years <5 years | 12 |
| >6 to 12 months | 6 | 5 years <10 years | 14 |
| >12 months | 8 | 10 years or more but not Life | 2 |
| | | Life | 4 |

Note: Percentage distribution may not aggregate to totals due to rounding.
Source: Adult Correctional Services Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics

Correctional Service Personnel

The correctional service sector employed 32,270 staff at the provincial/territorial and federal levels in 2000/01, up 8% from the previous year. About half of these workers were employed in either the provincial/territorial system (51%) or the federal system (49%). The administration of custodial services accounted for eight in ten workers in both the federal and provincial/territorial systems, consistent with previous years.

Compared to 1995/96, correctional service personnel increased by 14% overall, however, the federal system reported an increase of 44% of personnel compared to a 5% decrease in the provincial system. Within the federal system, all components increased markedly since 1995/96: headquarters (91%), community supervision (51%), and custodial services (38%).

Inmates in provincial/territorial sentenced custody are typically in their early thirties at the time of admission. Among eight reporting jurisdictions, the median age ranged from 29 in Saskatchewan to 35 years of age in Quebec. The median age is the age at which half of the inmates are younger and half are older. Only 31% of sentenced inmates were aged 18 to 24 in 2000/01. In the federal system, the median age of sentenced offenders was 32 years of age, and 25% of inmates were 18 to 24 years of age.

Aboriginal offenders continue to be over-represented as a proportion of both federal and provincial/territorial sentenced inmates

In 2000/01, Aboriginal people accounted for 19% of provincial/territorial admissions to sentenced custody, and 17% of federal sentenced custody, but only 2% of the adult Canadian population according to 1996 census counts. Jurisdictions with a relatively larger proportion of Aboriginal adult population also reported a larger proportion of sentenced admissions for Aboriginal people (see Text Table 9), i.e. in Yukon (72% of sentenced admissions and 17% of the adult population); Manitoba (64% versus 9%); Saskatchewan (76% versus 8%); and Alberta (39% versus 4%).

Compared to the previous year, the proportion of sentenced admissions for Aboriginal people in provincial/territorial custody increased from 18% to 19%, while the proportion in the federal system remained stable. Aboriginal people accounted for a larger proportion of total sentenced admissions to provincial/

Text Table 9



Selected Characteristics of Admissions to Sentenced Custody, 2000/01

| | Admissions | % change | Rate per 10,000 adults charged | Female (%) | Aboriginal (%) | Median Age | Median Sentence Length (days) |
|---|---------------|-----------|--------------------------------|------------|----------------|------------|-------------------------------|
| Newfoundland and Labrador | 944 | 0.9 | 1,313 | 8.0 | 6.6 | .. | .. |
| Prince Edward Island | 586 | -9.4 | 3,441 | 10.0 | 0.6 | .. | .. |
| Nova Scotia | 1,624 | -11.0 | 1,032 | 6.0 | 7.0 | 30 | 60 |
| New Brunswick | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| Quebec | 14,951 | -17.0 | 1,564 | 9.7 | 1.8 | 35 | 28 |
| Ontario | 30,999 | 0.8 | 1,841 | 8.8 | 8.5 | 32 | 40 |
| Manitoba | 2,901 | -11.7 | 1,131 | 6.0 | 64.0 | 30 | 90 |
| Saskatchewan | 3,219 | -4.4 | 952 | 9.0 | 76.0 | 29 | 119 |
| Alberta | 14,859 | 0.9 | 2,432 | 11.0 | 39.3 | 31 | 30 |
| British Columbia | 9,520 | -2.2 | 1,302 | 7.0 | 20.0 | 31 | 60 |
| Yukon | 294 | -4.5 | 2,226 | 9.0 | 72.0 | 31 | 30 |
| Northwest Territories | 802 | -27.6 | 3,728 | 5.0 | .. | .. | .. |
| Nunavut | 229 | .. | .. | 0.0 | 98.0 | .. | .. |
| Provincial/Territorial Total ¹ | 80,928 | -4.5 | 1,654 | 9.1 | 19.0 | ... | ... |
| Federal Total | 4,272 | -1.9 | 85 | 5.0 | 17.0 | 32 | 1,095 |
| TOTAL | 85,200 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |

Note: Rates may not aggregate to totals due to rounding.

.. not available for specific reference period

... not applicable

¹ Excludes New Brunswick sentenced admissions.

Source: Adult Correctional Services Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics

territorial custody compared to the previous year in Manitoba (57% in 1999/00 versus 64% in 2000/01) and Yukon (66% versus 72%).

During the past decade, the proportion of sentenced Aboriginal offenders commencing provincial/territorial incarceration has fluctuated between 15% and 19% (see Figure 4). However, the proportion of Aboriginal offenders in sentenced custody in the federal system has increased from 12% in 1990/91 to 18% in 1997/98, and stabilized at 17% in recent years.

Sentencing Aboriginal Offenders

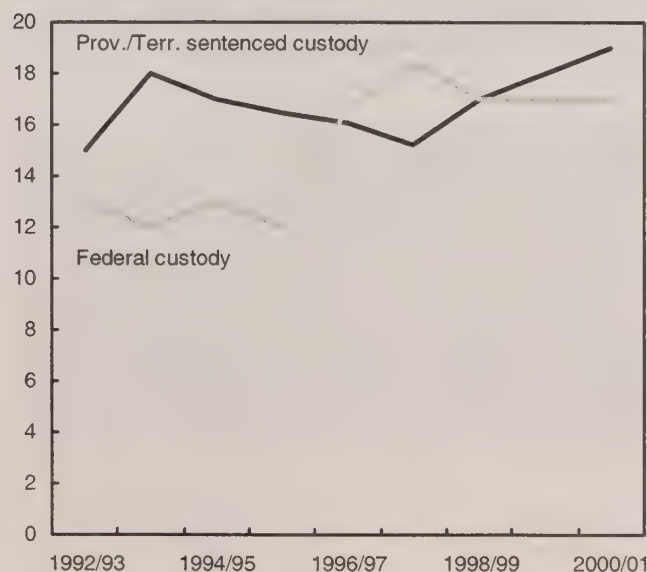
Recent changes to the *Criminal Code* were designed to address the issue of Aboriginal over-representation within the sentenced inmate population. These changes have been endorsed by the Supreme Court of Canada in such decisions as *R. v. Gladue* (1998) and *R. v. Wells* (1999). In fact, s.718.2 (e) of the *Criminal Code* provides that "all available sanctions other than imprisonment that are reasonable in the circumstances should be considered for all offenders, with particular attention to the circumstances of aboriginal offenders".

The Supreme Court indicated that courts can take judicial notice of broad systemic and background factors affecting Aboriginal people. In practical terms, when attempting to determine the appropriate sentence for an Aboriginal offender, the court must take into account the primary importance of restorative justice principles within Aboriginal conceptions of sentencing. This does not mean, however, that judges must always put the greatest weight on this factor, particularly when the offence is very serious.

Figure 4

Representation of Aboriginal people in provincial/territorial custody on the increase

% of Sentenced Admissions



Sources: Adult Correctional Services Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics.

Case-flow in Community Correctional Services

In 2000/01, correctional services in the community involved the supervision of 109,491³ admissions or intakes into probation (75%), conditional sentences (16%), federal statutory release (4%), provincial/territorial parole (3%), and federal parole (2%). Community supervision admissions increased by 2% compared to the previous year. These increases were reported in probation (up 3%), conditional sentences (up 8%) and statutory release (up 3%) only.

Probation and Conditional Sentence Trends

The rate of probation per 10,000 adults charged increased by 30% from 1,218 admissions per 10,000 adults charged in 1992/93 to 1,589 admissions per 10,000 adults charged in 2000/01, while the rate of admissions to sentenced custody per 10,000 adults charged decreased by 16% (see Figure 5, Table 5). Since 1997/98, the first year of complete reporting for conditional sentences, the probation rate has fluctuated and returned to a level similar to three years earlier, to 1,589 in 2000/01. In contrast, the sentenced custody rate declined by 18% from a rate of 1,917 in 1997/98 to 1,569 in 2000/01, while the rate of conditional sentences increased by 17% from 284 in 1997/98 to 331 per 10,000 adults charged in 2000/01.

Nationally, the number of conditional sentences imposed has increased since this type of sentence was implemented in 1996. Provincially, the number of conditional sentences imposed over this time period has increased in all provinces, with the exception of Ontario.

Probation characteristics

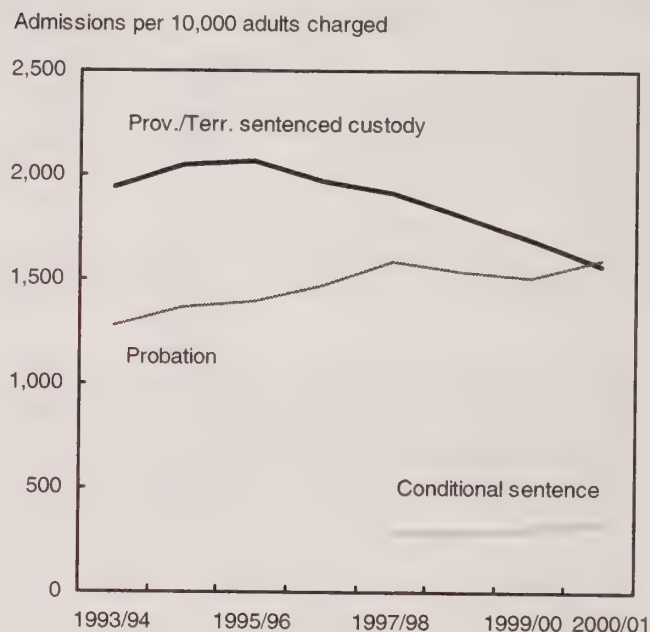
Similar to adults sentenced to custody, most probationers in 2000/01 were male, and similar in age to provincial/territorial inmates (see Text Table 10). However, the percentage of female probationers was higher than the percentage of females in custody (17% versus 9%). Aboriginal people comprised 15% of probation commencements compared to 19% of provincial/territorial custodial admissions.

Releases into the Community

A release describes an incarcerated offender who is in the community under conditions on day parole, full parole, or statutory release supervision. Conditional releases are typically accompanied by specific conditions where failure to meet them could result in reincarceration. The National Parole Board (NPB) is responsible for decision-making related to conditional release for all federal offenders and all provincial/territorial offenders granted parole, with the exception of those in British Columbia, Ontario and Quebec. While these three jurisdictions operate their own parole boards, the Correctional Service Canada is responsible for the supervision of all offenders granted parole.

Figure 5

Admission rates to sentenced custody decline while conditional sentence and probation rates increase



Sources: Adult Correctional Services Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics.

Day paroles are most often successfully completed

For federal offenders, three types of conditional release are available: day parole, full parole and statutory release. Offenders are entitled to apply for day parole six months prior to full parole eligibility or after one sixth of their sentence has been served for cases that meet the accelerated parole review criteria.⁴ However, in practice, the average offender released on day parole has served about one third of his/her sentence.⁵ Day parole permits offenders to participate in activities (e.g. training or treatment programs) in the community, be under close supervision, and live in a halfway house in the community or in a correctional facility. In 2000/01, 72% of applications for day parole by federal offenders and 71% by provincial offenders were granted by the National Parole Board (see Text Table 11).

³ Excludes releases for warrant expiry, transfers, deaths and other reasons that do not require supervision.

⁴ Note that for the most serious offences, these eligibility provisions do not apply. Legislation and the sentencing judge determine eligibility for parole.

⁵ p. 25, Performance Monitoring Report 1998/99, prepared by the National Parole Board, Performance Measurement Division.

Text Table 10



Selected Characteristics of Probation Admissions, 2000/01

| | Probation Admissions | % change | Female (%) | Aboriginal (%) | Median age |
|---|-------------------------|-------------|---------------|-------------------|---------------|
| Newfoundland and Labrador | 1,906 | 5.2 | 15 | 8 | 30 |
| Prince Edward Island | 533 | -10.0 | .. | .. | .. |
| Nova Scotia | 3,653 | -3.6 | 15 | 6 | 30 |
| New Brunswick | 1,733 | 21.3 | 16 | 8 | .. |
| Quebec | 7,704 | 8.5 | 13 | 8 | 31 |
| Ontario | 34,920 | 4.5 | 17 | 9 | 33 |
| Manitoba | 6,811 | .. | 15 | 46 | 29 |
| Saskatchewan | 3,457 | 6.6 | 20 | 65 | 29 |
| Alberta | 9,360 | 7.5 | 19 | 21 | .. |
| British Columbia | 11,509 | -6.3 | 16 | 18 | 31 |
| Yukon | 353 | -12.8 | 19 | 57 | 30 |
| Northwest Territories | . | . | . | . | . |
| Nunavut | . | . | . | . | . |
| Provincial/Territorial Total¹ | 81,939 | 3.2 | 17 | 15 | . |

. not available for any reference period

.. not available for specific reference period

¹ Excludes the Northwest Territories and Nunavut. Note that Manitoba probation admissions are excluded from the percentage change due to missing data in 1999/00.

Source: Adult Correctional Services Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics.

Text Table 11



Grant Rates for Full and Day Parole, 2000/01

| | Day Parole | | | Full Parole | | |
|---------------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------|
| | Total Applications no. | Applications Granted no. | Grant Rate % | Total Applications no. | Applications Granted no. | Grant Rate % |
| National Parole Board | | | | | | |
| Federal offenders | 4,813 | 3,459 | 71.9 | 4,256 | 1,810 | 42.5 |
| Provincial offenders | 311 | 220 | 70.7 | 570 | 339 | 59.5 |
| Provincial Parole Boards | | | | | | |
| Quebec | . | . | . | 3,115 | 1,731 | 55.6 |
| Ontario | . | . | . | 2,125 | 584 | 27.5 |
| British Columbia | . | . | . | .. | .. | . |

. not available for any reference period

.. not available for specific reference period

Source: Adult Correctional Services Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics

Among the three types of conditional release in the federal system, day paroles are most likely to be completed successfully (see Text Table 12). Of the 3,507 federal day paroles completed⁶ in 2000/01, 83% were successfully completed; 12% were revoked for breach of condition; and 6% were revoked as a result of the commission of an offence (5% for non-violent offences, less than 1% for violent offences).

Offenders are generally entitled to apply for full parole after one third of their sentence is served in custody or seven years,

whichever is less. The average actual amount of time served by those granted full parole was 40% of the sentence in 2000/01, according to the National Parole Board.⁷ In 2000/01, 43% of the 4,256 federal applications for full parole were granted. Nearly three quarters of offenders released on full parole (74%)

⁶ Note that data on outcomes are based upon the number of terms of parole completed in the year, not the number of offenders released on parole.

⁷ Corrections and Conditional Release Statistical Overview, Solicitor General Canada, 2001, pg 63.

Text Table 12

National Parole Board Outcomes,¹ 2000/01

| | Total Completed Releases | Regular Expiry | | Revoked | | Reason for Revocation | | |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------|--------------------|---------|--------------------|------------------------|---|-------------------------------------|
| | | no. | (% total cases) | no. | (% total cases) | Breach of condition | Commission of non-violent offence | Commission of violent offence |
| | | | | | | (% total cases) | (% total cases) | (% total cases) |
| Day Parole | | | | | | | | |
| Federal | 3,507 | 2,900 | 82.7 | 607 | 17.3 | 12.1 | 4.5 | 0.7 |
| Provincial/Territorial | 235 | 178 | 75.7 | 57 | 24.3 | 23.0 | 1.3 | 0.0 |
| Full Parole² | | | | | | | | |
| Federal | 1,796 | 1,333 | 74.2 | 463 | 25.8 | 16.0 | 8.4 | 1.4 |
| Provincial/Territorial | 381 | 299 | 78.5 | 82 | 21.5 | 19.7 | 1.3 | 0.5 |
| Statutory Release | | | | | | | | |
| Federal | 4,963 | 2,926 | 59.0 | 2,037 | 41.0 | 26.7 | 11.6 | 2.7 |

¹ Outcomes represent only those for which the conditional release was completed during 2000/01.

² Release outcomes constitute determinate sentences only.

Source: Adult Correctional Services Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics

from the federal system in 2000/01 were successfully completed (1,333 of 1,796 completions); 16% were revoked due to a breach of conditions; and about 10% were revoked as a result of the commission of a new offence (8% for non-violent offences, 1% for violent offences). These data do not include offenders serving life or indeterminate sentences as these offenders, by definition, remain under supervision for life.

Of the three types of conditional release, statutory releases were least likely to be successfully completed. Of the statutory releases completed in 2000/01, 59% were successful; 27% were revoked for breach of condition, and about 14% were revoked for the commission of a new offence (12% for non-violent offences, 3% for violent offences).

Public opinion on the justice sector

Canadians were asked to express their opinions of the criminal justice system in the General Social Survey, 1999 conducted by Statistics Canada. Canadians hold police with higher regard than they do the courts, prison and parole systems.⁸ Asked if local police are doing a good job at enforcing the law, 60% of Canadians agreed, compared with 41% who agreed that the courts are doing a good job at ensuring a fair trial for the accused, for example. Asked if the prison system is doing a good job at supervising/controlling prisoners, 26% agreed, and 13% of Canadians agreed that the parole system is doing a good job at supervising offenders on parole.

⁸ See Tufts, 2000.

Statutory Release

Federal offenders are eligible for statutory release after two thirds of a custodial sentence is served. Statutory releases are much like full parole except that, unlike applications for day and full parole, the onus is on the CSC to show why any offender should not be released. In 2000/01, the number of statutory releases completed (4,963) for federal offenders was more than twice the number of full parole releases completed (1,796).

Methodology and data limitations

The information presented in this *Juristat* comes from data collected on the operation of adult correctional services in Canada through two surveys: the Resources, Expenditures and Personnel (REP) Survey and the Adult Correctional Services (ACS) Survey. Data relating to operating expenditures and personnel are collected through the REP, while the ACS Survey collects aggregate caseload and case characteristics information on adult offenders (18 years and over) under some form of provincial/territorial or federal correctional supervision. The data are provided by the various provincial, territorial and federal ministries, departments and agencies that administer correctional services across the country. Nevertheless, as a result of consistent counting practices within jurisdictions over time, statements may be made about the trends within each jurisdiction. These surveys are conducted annually, on a fiscal-year basis from April 1 to March 31.

Because data are reported in an aggregate form, there are limits on the types of analyses that can be performed. Data such as median age of offenders and median sentence length for each province cannot be combined to calculate a national median for all offenders. In addition, the ability to do cross-tabulations is limited.

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Table 1

**Provincial/Territorial and Federal Average Count of Offenders in Correctional Services,
1990/91 to 2000/01**

| | Provincial/Territorial Average Daily Count | | | | | | | | | | Federal Average Daily Count | | | | Total | |
|----------------------|--|-------------|--------------------|-------------|----------------------------------|-------------|------------------|-------------|---------------------------------------|-------------|-----------------------------|-------------|----------------------|-------------|---------|-------------|
| | Sentenced Custody | % change | Remand | % change | Other/ Temporary Detention | % change | Total Custody | % change | Community Supervision ⁴ | % change | Federal Custody | % change | Community Release | % change | Total | % change |
| 1990/91 | 13,170 ¹ | ... | 4,713 ¹ | ... | 52 | ... | 17,935 | ... | 84,635 | ... | 11,289 | ... | 9,406 ¹ | ... | 123,265 | ... |
| 1991/92 | 13,925 ¹ | 5.7 | 4,947 | 5.0 | 68 | 30.8 | 18,940 | 5.6 | 95,970 | 13.4 | 11,783 | 4.4 | 9,707 ¹ | 3.2 | 136,400 | 10.7 |
| 1992/93 | 14,135 | 1.5 | 5,111 | 3.3 | 121 | 77.9 | 19,367 | 2.3 | 103,579 | 7.9 | 12,342 | 4.7 | 9,914 ¹ | 2.1 | 145,202 | 6.5 |
| 1993/94 ¹ | 14,251 | 0.8 | 5,130 | 0.4 | 100 | -17.4 | 19,481 | 0.6 | 106,262 | 2.6 | 13,322 | 7.9 | 10,132 ¹ | 2.2 | 149,197 | 2.8 |
| 1994/95 | 14,316 ¹ | 0.5 | 5,327 | 3.8 | 168 ¹ | 68.0 | 19,881 | 1.7 | 104,631 | -1.5 | 13,948 | 4.7 | 9,422 | -7.0 | 147,812 | -0.9 |
| 1995/96 | 14,249 | -0.5 | 5,266 | -1.1 | 215 | 28.0 | 19,730 | -0.4 | 105,130 | 0.5 | 14,076 | 0.9 | 9,272 ¹ | -1.6 | 148,208 | 0.3 |
| 1996/97 | 13,522 ¹ | -5.1 | 5,734 | 8.9 | 269 ¹ | 25.1 | 19,525 | -1.0 | 106,776 | 1.6 | 14,197 | 0.9 | 7,405 | -20.1 | 147,904 | -0.2 |
| 1997/98 | 12,573 | -7.0 | 6,109 | 6.5 | 274 | 1.9 | 18,956 | -2.9 | 115,730 | 8.4 | 13,759 | -3.1 | 7,479 | 1.0 | 155,923 | 5.4 |
| 1998/99 | 12,478 | -0.8 | 6,472 | 5.9 | 271 | -1.1 | 19,220 | 1.4 | 111,642 | -3.5 | 13,170 | -4.3 | 7,786 ¹ | 4.1 | 151,818 | -2.6 |
| 1999/00 ² | 11,421 | -8.5 | 6,665 | 3.0 | 548 | 102.2 | 18,634 | -3.1 | 113,744 | 1.9 | 12,974 | -1.5 | 8,095 | 4.0 | 153,447 | 1.1 |
| 2000/01 ³ | 10,953 | -4.1 | 7,428 | 11.5 | 434 | -20.8 | 18,815 | 1.0 | 111,885 | -1.6 | 12,732 | -1.9 | 8,034 | -0.8 | 151,466 | -1.3 |

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding.

... not applicable

¹ revised

¹ Federal Conditional Release count was a snapshot taken on March 31 and includes provincial offenders on parole being supervised by the Correctional Service Canada.

² British Columbia changed its reporting practices to include other/temporary detention.

³ New Brunswick data for 2000/01 are extracted from a new operational system: caution is recommended when making comparisons over time.

⁴ Total for community supervision includes probation, provincial parole and, conditional sentences after 1996/97.

Source: Adult Correctional Services Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

Table 2

Offender Rate per 100,000 adults, Provincial/Territorial and Federal Offenders in Correctional Services, 1990/01 to 2000/01

Provincial/Territorial

| | Sentenced custody | % change | Remand | % change | Other Temporary Detention | % change | Total | % change | Community Supervision ⁴ | % change | Total Provincial/ Territorial Corrections | % change |
|----------------------|----------------------|-------------|--------|-------------|---------------------------------|-------------|-------|-------------|---------------------------------------|-------------|--|-------------|
| 1990/91 | 63 | ... | 23 | ... | 0 | ... | 86 | ... | 406 | ... | 492 | ... |
| 1991/92 | 66 | 4.4 | 23 | 3.7 | 0 | 29.2 | 90 | 4.2 | 455 | 12.0 | 544 | 12.0 |
| 1992/93 | 66 | 0.3 | 24 | 2.1 | 1 | 75.8 | 91 | 1.0 | 485 | 6.7 | 575 | 6.9 |
| 1993/94 ¹ | 66 | -0.4 | 24 | -0.9 | 0 | -18.4 | 90 | -0.7 | 491 | 1.2 | 580 | 2.1 |
| 1994/95 | 65 | -0.9 | 24 | 2.5 | 1 | 65.8 | 90 | 0.4 | 478 | -2.7 | 567 | -1.0 |
| 1995/96 | 64 | -1.7 | 24 | -2.4 | 1 | 26.3 | 89 | -1.7 | 474 | -0.8 | 563 | 0.6 |
| 1996/97 | 60 | -6.3 | 26 | 7.5 | 1 | 23.6 | 87 | -2.3 | 490 | 3.5 | 577 | 3.9 |
| 1997/98 | 55 | -8.3 | 27 | 5.1 | 1 | 0.5 | 83 | -4.2 | 508 | 3.7 | 592 | 3.9 |
| 1998/99 | 54 | -2.0 | 28 | 4.6 | 1 | -2.3 | 83 | 0.1 | 484 | -4.8 | 567 | -2.9 |
| 1999/00 ² | 49 | -9.6 | 29 | 1.7 | 2 | 99.7 | 80 | -4.3 | 487 | 0.6 | 567 | 1.2 |
| 2000/01 ³ | 46 | -5.3 | 31 | 10.0 | 2 | -21.8 | 80 | -0.3 | 473 | -2.9 | 559 | -0.2 |

Federal

Total

| | Federal Custody | % change | Community Release | % change | Total Federal | % change | Total Corrections | % change |
|----------------------|--------------------|-------------|----------------------|-------------|------------------|-------------|----------------------|-------------|
| 1990/91 | 54 | ... | 45 | ... | 99 | ... | 592 | ... |
| 1991/92 | 56 | 3.1 | 46 | 1.9 | 102 | 2.6 | 647 | 9.3 |
| 1992/93 | 58 | 3.5 | 46 | 0.9 | 104 | 2.3 | 680 | 5.2 |
| 1993/94 ¹ | 62 | 6.6 | 47 | 0.9 | 108 | 4.1 | 690 | 1.5 |
| 1994/95 | 64 | 3.3 | 43 | -8.2 | 107 | -1.7 | 675 | -2.2 |
| 1995/96 | 63 | -0.4 | 42 | -2.8 | 105 | -1.4 | 668 | -1.0 |
| 1996/97 | 63 | -0.4 | 33 | -21.1 | 96 | -8.6 | 658 | -1.4 |
| 1997/98 | 60 | -4.4 | 33 | -0.4 | 93 | -3.0 | 685 | 4.0 |
| 1998/99 | 57 | -5.5 | 34 | 2.8 | 91 | -2.5 | 658 | -3.8 |
| 1999/00 ² | 56 | -2.7 | 35 | 2.7 | 90 | -0.7 | 657 | -0.2 |
| 2000/01 ³ | 54 | -3.1 | 34 | -2.0 | 88 | -2.7 | 640 | -2.6 |

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding.

... not applicable

¹ Federal Conditional Release count was a snapshot taken on March 31 and includes provincial offenders on parole being supervised by the Correctional Service Canada.

² British Columbia changed its reporting practices to include other/temporary detentions.

³ New Brunswick data for 2000/01 are extracted from a new operational system: caution is recommended when making comparisons over time.

⁴ Total for community supervision includes probation, provincial parole, and conditional sentences.

Source: Adult Correctional Services Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

Table 3

Average Daily Count and Rate per 100,000 adults, Selected Sentences, 1995/96 to 2000/01

| | | Sentenced Custody ¹ | | | Conditional Sentences [*] | | | Probation [*] | | |
|------------------------------|---------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------|------------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------|------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------|
| | | Average count | Rate per 100,000 adults | % change | Average count | Rate per 100,000 adults | % change | Average count | Rate per 100,000 adults | % change |
| Newfoundland and Labrador | 1995/96 | 319 | 75 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2,229 | 524 | ... |
| | 1996/97 | 275 ^r | 65 | -13.5 | ... | ... | ... | 2,264 | 535 | 2.1 |
| | 1997/98 | 248 | 59 | -9.3 | 108 | 26 | ... | 2,389 | 566 | 5.8 |
| | 1998/99 | 258 ^r | 62 | 4.7 | 128 | 31 | 19.4 | 2,337 | 558 | -1.4 |
| | 1999/00 | 222 | 53 | -13.8 | 180 | 43 | 40.7 | 2,260 | 540 | -3.2 |
| | 2000/01 | 225 | 54 | 1.1 | 124 | 30 | -31.2 | 2,338 | 557 | 3.3 |
| Prince Edward Island | 1995/96 | 96 | 96 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 888 | 893 | ... |
| | 1996/97 | 71 ^r | 71 | -26.8 | ... | ... | ... | 682 | 676 | -24.2 |
| | 1997/98 | 79 | 78 | 9.7 | 11 | 11 | ... | 834 | 818 | 21.0 |
| | 1998/99 | 73 | 71 | -8.3 | ... | ... | ... | 886 ^r | 865 | 5.6 |
| | 1999/00 | 71 | 68 | -3.7 | ... | ... | ... | 713 ^r | 688 | -20.4 |
| | 2000/01 | 73 | 70 | 2.0 | 19 | 18 | ... | 661 | 632 | -8.2 |
| Nova Scotia ² | 1995/96 | 346 | 49 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 4,339 | 614 | ... |
| | 1996/97 | 318 ^r | 45 | -8.8 | ... | ... | ... | 4,410 | 620 | 1.0 |
| | 1997/98 | 299 | 42 | -6.7 | ... | ... | ... | 4,884 | 682 | 9.9 |
| | 1998/99 | 285 | 39 | -5.2 | ... | ... | ... | 5,209 | 723 | 6.0 |
| | 1999/00 | 247 | 34 | -13.9 | ... | ... | ... | 4,614 | 635 | -12.2 |
| | 2000/01 | 222 | 30 | -10.6 | ... | ... | ... | 4,365 | 597 | -5.9 |
| New Brunswick ^{3,4} | 1995/96 | 353 | 62 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2,609 | 456 | ... |
| | 1996/97 | 339 | 59 | -4.6 | ... | ... | ... | 2,696 | 468 | 2.7 |
| | 1997/98 | 319 | 55 | -6.5 | ... | ... | ... | 2,687 | 464 | -1.0 |
| | 1998/99 | 274 | 47 | -14.4 | ... | ... | ... | 2,599 | 447 | -3.7 |
| | 1999/00 | 244 | 42 | -11.5 | ... | ... | ... | 2,416 | 413 | -7.6 |
| | 2000/01 | 204 | 35 | -16.9 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Quebec | 1995/96 | 2,303 | 41 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 9,520 | 172 | ... |
| | 1996/97 | 2,267 | 41 | -2.2 | ... | ... | ... | 10,007 | 179 | 4.4 |
| | 1997/98 | 2,117 | 38 | -7.4 | 2,350 | 42 | ... | 11,496 | 204 | 13.9 |
| | 1998/99 | 2,102 | 37 | -1.5 | 2,444 | 43 | 3.2 | 7,296 | 128 | -37.0 |
| | 1999/00 | 1,993 ^r | 35 | -6.0 | 2,876 | 50 | 16.6 | 7,925 | 138 | 7.7 |
| | 2000/01 | 2,011 | 35 | 0.0 | 2,884 | 50 | -0.6 | 7,813 | 135 | -2.3 |
| Ontario | 1995/96 | 4,690 | 56 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 49,783 | 599 | ... |
| | 1996/97 | 4,819 | 57 | 1 | ... | ... | ... | 50,116 | 596 | -0.5 |
| | 1997/98 | 4,631 | 54 | -5.4 | 1,971 | 23 | ... | 52,352 | 613 | 2.9 |
| | 1998/99 | 4,441 | 51 | -5.5 | 2,268 | 26 | 13.4 | 52,659 | 608 | -0.9 |
| | 1999/00 | 4,003 | 46 | -11.2 | 2,488 | 28 | 8.1 | 52,013 | 591 | -2.7 |
| | 2000/01 | 3,737 | 42 | -8.2 | 2,785 | 31 | 10.1 | 52,181 | 583 | -1.4 |
| Manitoba | 1995/96 | 696 | 83 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 5,361 | 641 | ... |
| | 1996/97 | 639 | 76 | -8.7 | ... | ... | ... | 5,558 | 662 | 3.2 |
| | 1997/98 | 570 | 68 | -11.2 | 171 | 20 | ... | 5,272 | 625 | -5.5 |
| | 1998/99 | 615 | 73 | 7.5 | 311 | 37 | 81.2 | 5,167 | 610 | -2.4 |
| | 1999/00 | 603 | 71 | -2.5 | 534 | 63 | 70.6 | 5,997 | 704 | 15.3 |
| | 2000/01 | 596 | 70 | -1.8 | 440 | 51 | -18.1 | 6,440 | 752 | 6.8 |
| Saskatchewan | 1995/96 | 1,088 | 149 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 3,500 | 478 | ... |
| | 1996/97 | 980 | 133 | -10.7 | ... | ... | ... | 3,579 | 484 | 1.4 |
| | 1997/98 | 958 | 129 | -2.9 | 580 | 78 | ... | 3,622 | 487 | 0.5 |
| | 1998/99 | 955 | 127 | -1.0 | 713 | 95 | 22.1 | 3,760 | 502 | 3.1 |
| | 1999/00 | 854 | 113 | -11.1 | 877 | 116 | 22.3 | 3,720 | 494 | -1.6 |
| | 2000/01 | 826 | 110 | -3.4 | 1,006 | 133 | 14.6 | 3,803 | 504 | 2.1 |
| Alberta | 1995/96 | 2,084 | 104 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 7,657 | 383 | ... |
| | 1996/97 | 1,825 | 90 | -14.0 | ... | ... | ... | 7,914 | 389 | 1.5 |
| | 1997/98 | 1,463 | 70 | -21.8 | 741 | 36 | ... | 7,886 | 378 | -2.8 |
| | 1998/99 | 1,601 | 75 | 6.3 | 704 | 33 | -7.7 | 7,968 | 371 | -1.9 |
| | 1999/00 | 1,430 | 65 | -12.8 | 749 | 34 | 3.9 | 8,311 | 378 | 1.9 |
| | 2000/01 | 1,323 | 59 | -9.5 | 971 | 43 | 26.8 | 8,696 | 387 | 2.3 |
| British Columbia | 1995/96 | 1,933 | 67 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 14,648 | 506 | ... |
| | 1996/97 | 1,626 ^r | 55 | -18.2 | ... | ... | ... | 14,953 | 502 | -0.7 |
| | 1997/98 | 1,525 | 50 | -8.3 | 883 | 29 | ... | 14,436 | 474 | -5.6 |
| | 1998/99 | 1,513 | 49 | -2.1 | 1,033 | 33 | 15.4 | 13,495 | 437 | -7.7 |
| | 1999/00 | 1,467 | 47 | -4.2 | 1,241 | 40 | 18.7 | 14,453 | 463 | 5.8 |
| | 2000/01 | 1,476 | 47 | -0.6 | 1,612 | 51 | 28.3 | 13,854 | 438 | -5.3 |

See footnote(s) at the end of this table.

Table 3

**Average Daily Count and Rate per 100,000 adults, Selected Sentences,
1995/96 to 2000/01 - Concluded**

| | | Sentenced Custody ¹ | | | Conditional Sentences* | | | Probation* | | |
|------------------------------------|---------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------|------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------|----------------------|-------------------------------|-------------|
| | | Average count | Rate per 100,000 adults | % change | Average count | Rate per 100,000 adults | % change | Average count | Rate per 100,000 adults | % change |
| Yukon | 1995/96 | 63 | 284 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 433 | 1,949 | ... |
| | 1996/97 | 53 | 229 | -19.1 | .. | .. | ... | 534 | 2,312 | 18.6 |
| | 1997/98 | 60 | 257 | 11.9 | 3 | 13 | .. | 547 | 2,342 | 1.3 |
| | 1998/99 | 52 | 226 | -11.9 | 26 | 114 | 783.8 | 492 | 2,141 | -8.6 |
| | 1999/00 | 43 | 190 | -16.1 | 39 | 171 | 50.3 | 438 | 1,925 | -10.1 |
| | 2000/01 | 35 | 155 | -18.4 | 45 | 199 | 16.8 | 375 | 1,660 | -13.8 |
| Northwest Territories ⁵ | 1995/96 | 278 | .. | .. | ... | ... | ... | 951 ^r | 2,269 | ... |
| | 1996/97 | 311 | 733 | .. | .. | .. | ... | 917 | 2,161 | -4.7 |
| | 1997/98 | 304 | 714 | -2.6 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| | 1998/99 | 309 | 1,078 | 51.0 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| | 1999/00 | 207 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| | 2000/01 | 163 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| Nunavut | 1995/96 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | .. | .. | .. |
| | 1996/97 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | .. | .. | .. |
| | 1997/98 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | .. | .. | .. |
| | 1998/99 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | .. | .. | .. |
| | 1999/00 | 36 | 236 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| | 2000/01 | 63 | 404 | 70.9 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| Provincial/Territorial Total | 1995/96 | 14,249 | 64 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 101,918 ^r | 459 | ... |
| | 1996/97 | 13,522 ^r | 60 | -6.3 | .. | .. | ... | 103,630 | 461 | 0.4 |
| | 1997/98 | 12,573 | 55 | -8.3 | 6,818 | 30 | .. | 106,450 | 467 | 1.3 |
| | 1998/99 | 12,478 ^r | 54 | -2.0 | 7,627 | 33 | 10.5 | 101,868 | 442 | -5.5 |
| | 1999/00 | 11,421 ^r | 49 | -9.6 | 8,984 | 38 | 16.3 | 102,860 | 440 | -0.3 |
| | 2000/01 | 10,953 | 46 | -5.3 | 9,885 | 42 | 8.6 | 100,526 | 425 | -3.5 |

Note: Rates may not aggregate to totals due to rounding.

.. not available for any reference period

.. not available for a specific reference period

... not applicable

^r revised

* Counts are reported as average monthly counts.

¹ Counts are reported as average daily counts.

² Nova Scotia's sentenced custody is reported as an average monthly count.

³ New Brunswick probation and conditional sentence counts are estimates in 1999/00.

⁴ Data for 2000/01 are from a new operational system; caution is recommended when comparing 2000/01 to previous years.

⁵ Figures reported by the Northwest Territories after 1998-99 no longer include figures reported by Nunavut.

Source: Adult Correctional Services Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics

Table 4

Provincial/Territorial and Federal Admissions to Adult Correctional Services, 1992/93 to 2000/01

| | Provincial/Territorial Admissions | | | | | | | | | | Federal Admissions | | | | Total | |
|----------------------|-----------------------------------|----------|---------|----------|---------------------------|----------|---------|----------|------------------------------------|----------|--------------------|----------|--------------------------------|----------|---------|----------|
| | Sentenced custody | % change | Remand | % change | Other/Temporary Detention | % change | Total | % change | Community Supervision ³ | % change | Custody | % change | Community Release ⁴ | % change | Total | % change |
| 1992/93 | 121,817 | ... | 114,262 | ... | 9,667 | ... | 245,746 | ... | 82,815 | ... | 7,733 | ... | 8,934 | ... | 345,200 | ... |
| 1993/94 | 119,789 | -1.7 | 112,373 | -1.7 | 8,572 | -11.3 | 240,734 | -2.0 | 86,412 | 4.3 | 9,934 | 28.5 | 8,478 | -5.1 | 344,148 | -0.3 |
| 1994/95 | 117,938 | -1.5 | 112,671 | 0.3 | 8,251 | -3.7 | 238,860 | -0.8 | 85,372 | -1.2 | 9,079 | -8.6 | 8,074 | -4.8 | 340,322 | -1.1 |
| 1995/96 | 114,562 | -2.9 | 106,467 | -5.5 | 9,301 | 12.7 | 230,330 | -3.6 | 82,476 | -3.4 | 7,850 | -13.5 | 8,032 | -0.5 | 328,688 | -3.4 |
| 1996/97 | 108,003 | -5.7 | 107,911 | 1.4 | 12,468 | 34.1 | 228,382 | -0.8 | 93,119 | 12.9 | 7,422 | -5.5 | 7,587 | -5.5 | 336,510 | 2.4 |
| 1997/98 | 98,628 | -8.7 | 105,698 | -2.1 | 12,848 | 3.0 | 217,174 | -4.9 | 100,581 | 8.0 | 7,175 | -3.3 | 8,248 | 8.7 | 333,178 | -1.0 |
| 1998/99 | 93,045 | -5.7 | 104,975 | -0.7 | 12,571 | -2.2 | 210,591 | -3.0 | 97,798 | -2.8 | 7,821 | 9.0 | 8,141 | -1.3 | 323,777 | -2.8 |
| 1999/00 ¹ | 86,885 | -6.6 | 111,392 | 6.1 | 21,563 | 71.5 | 219,840 | 4.4 | 91,936 | -6.0 | 7,656 | -2.1 | 8,067 | -0.9 | 327,499 | 1.1 |
| 2000/01 ² | 80,928 | -4.5 | 118,566 | 7.8 | 24,901 | 15.5 | 227,279 | 3.4 | 101,768 | 2.5 | 7,723 | 0.9 | 7,723 | -4.3 | 344,493 | 2.9 |

... not applicable

¹ British Columbia changed its reporting practices to include other/temporary detentions. Community supervision excludes Manitoba probation admissions; also percentage change excludes Manitoba data in 1998/99 and 1999/00.

² New Brunswick admissions are excluded from sentenced custody, remand and other temporary detention in 2000/01. Also, all New Brunswick data in 2000/01 and Manitoba custody data for 1999/00 and 2000/01 are extracted from new operational systems: caution is recommended when making comparisons over time.

³ Community supervision refers to probation, provincial parole, and conditional sentences.

⁴ Federal community release includes full parole, day parole, and statutory releases and excludes warrant expiry and other releases where offenders are not currently being supervised (e.g. deportation, offenders temporarily detained elsewhere).

Source: Adult Correctional Services Survey and Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics

Table 5

Admission Rates per 10,000 adults charged, Provincial/Territorial and Federal Correctional Services, 1992/93 to 2000/01

Provincial/Territorial admission rate per 10,000 adults charged

Federal admission rate per 10,000 adults charged

| | Sentenced Custody | % change | Remand | % change | Other/Temporary | % change | Provincial Custody | % change | Probation | % change | Conditional Sentence | % change | Federal Custody | % change |
|----------------------|-------------------|----------|--------|----------|-----------------|----------|--------------------|----------|-----------|----------|----------------------|----------|-----------------|----------|
| 1992/93 | 1,867 | ... | 1,751 | ... | 148 | ... | 3,766 | ... | 1,218 | ... | ... | ... | 119 | ... |
| 1993/94 | 1,941 | 4.0 | 1,820 | 4.0 | 139 | -6.3 | 3,900 | 3.6 | 1,283 | 5.3 | ... | ... | 139 | 16.9 |
| 1994/95 | 2,047 | 5.5 | 1,956 | 7.4 | 143 | 3.1 | 4,146 | 6.3 | 1,369 | 6.8 | ... | ... | 158 | 13.8 |
| 1995/96 | 2,071 | 1.1 | 1,924 | -1.6 | 168 | 17.4 | 4,163 | 0.4 | 1,391 | 1.5 | ... | ... | 142 | 10.0 |
| 1996/97 | 1,972 | -4.7 | 1,970 | 2.4 | 228 | 35.4 | 4,170 | 0.2 | 1,472 | 5.8 | ... | ... | 136 | -4.5 |
| 1997/98 | 1,917 | -2.8 | 2,055 | 4.3 | 250 | 9.7 | 4,222 | 1.2 | 1,586 | 7.8 | 284 | ... | 139 | 2.9 |
| 1998/99 | 1,812 | -5.5 | 2,044 | -0.5 | 245 | -2.0 | 4,101 | -2.8 | 1,535 | -3.2 | 277 | -2.4 | 152 | 9.2 |
| 1999/00 ¹ | 1,696 | -6.4 | 2,175 | 6.4 | 421 | ... | 4,292 | 4.7 | 1,421 | -7.4 | 308 | 11.2 | 149 | -1.9 |
| 2000/01 ² | 1,569 | -5.1 | 2,299 | 6.9 | 483 | 14.7 | 4,406 | 2.7 | 1,589 | 5.9 | 331 | 7.4 | 150 | 0.2 |

... not available for specific reference period

... not applicable

¹ British Columbia changed its reporting practices to include other/temporary detentions. Includes Manitoba probation estimate of admissions.

² New Brunswick data excluded from sentenced, remand, and other temporary detention admissions.

Source: Adult Correctional Services Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics

Table 6

Adult Admissions to Provincial/Territorial and Federal Sentenced Custody by major offence, 2000/01

| | Unit of count ¹ | Number | Criminal Code | | | | Federal Statutes | | | Other ² | Fine default admissions ³ | |
|---|----------------------------|--------|--------------------|-----------------|------------------|----------|------------------|---------------|-------|--------------------|--------------------------------------|-------|
| | | | Crimes of violence | Property crimes | Impaired driving | Other CC | Total | Drug offences | Other | Total | Total | Total |
| | | | % | % | % | % | % | % | % | % | % | % |
| Newfoundland and Labrador | MSO | 944 | 29 | 26 | 17 | 16 | 89 | 4 | 6 | 10 | 1 | 1 |
| Prince Edward Island | MSO | 586 | 10 | 32 | 3 | 11 | 56 | 9 | 18 | 27 | 17 | 3 |
| Nova Scotia | MSO | 1,624 | 19 | 21 | 11 | 35 | 86 | 6 | 2 | 8 | 6 | 14 |
| New Brunswick | MSO | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| Quebec | MSO | 14,951 | 5 | 10 | 13 | 9 | 36 | 5 | 0 | 5 | 59 | 57 |
| Ontario | MSO | 30,999 | 27 | 28 | 8 | 27 | 89 | 7 | 1 | 8 | 3 | 0 |
| Manitoba | MSO | 2,901 | 46 | 21 | 7 | 11 | 85 | 2 | 5 | 7 | 1 | 0 |
| Saskatchewan | MSO | 3,219 | 31 | 19 | 14 | 29 | 93 | 0 | 3 | 3 | 4 | 6 |
| British Columbia | MSD | 9,520 | 16 | 27 | 3 | 29 | 75 | 9 | 9 | 18 | 7 | 1 |
| Northwest Territories | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| Nunavut | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| Total Provincial/Territorial | MSO/MSD | 63,800 | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | 14 |
| Federal | MSO | 4,272 | 53 | 18 | 2 | 11 | 83 | 17 | 0 | 17 | 0 | . |
| Number of Charges for Adults Sentenced to Custody | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Alberta | MC | 44,260 | 9 | 22 | 5 | 32 | 68 | 4 | 1 | 5 | 27 | 31 |
| Yukon | MC | 2,021 | 20 | 18 | 7 | 51 | 96 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 4 |

Note: figures may not add to 100% due to rounding.

. not available for any reference period

.. not available for specific reference period

¹ MSO - Most Serious Offence

MSD - Most Serious Disposition

MC - Multiple Charge

Alberta and Yukon classify program commencements using a 'multiple charge' method. This means that an individual commencing a custody program for multiple charges will be counted for each distinct but separate charge.

² "Other" includes Provincial/Territorial/Municipal Statutes.

³ The percentage shown for fine default admissions is based on the total number of sentenced admissions, where at least one of the charges with a conviction was fine default.

Source: Adult Correctional Services Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics.

Table 7

Admissions to Sentenced Custody, Conditional Sentences and Probation, 1995/96 to 2000/01

| | | Provincial/Territorial Admissions | | | | | |
|----------------------------|---------|-----------------------------------|-------------|--------------------------|-------------|-----------|-------------|
| | | Sentenced custody | % change | Conditional sentences | % change | Probation | % change |
| Newfoundland and Labrador | 1995/96 | 2,386 | ... | ... | ... | 2,032 | ... |
| | 1996/97 | 1,568 | -34.3 | .. | .. | 1,946 | -4.2 |
| | 1997/98 | 1,166 | -25.6 | 304 | ... | 1,982 | 1.8 |
| | 1998/99 | 1,199 | 2.8 | 300 | -1.3 | 1,903 | -4.0 |
| | 1999/00 | 936 | -21.9 | 310 | 3.3 | 1,811 | -4.8 |
| | 2000/01 | 944 | 0.9 | 319 | 2.9 | 1,906 | 5.2 |
| Prince Edward Island | 1995/96 | 993 | ... | ... | ... | 652 | ... |
| | 1996/97 | 867 | -12.7 | .. | ... | 691 | 6.0 |
| | 1997/98 | 869 | 0.2 | 29 | ... | 744 | 7.7 |
| | 1998/99 | 803 | -7.6 | 35 | 20.7 | 564 | -24.2 |
| | 1999/00 | 647 | -19.4 | 50 | 42.9 | 592 | 5.0 |
| | 2000/01 | 586 | -9.4 | 40 | -20.0 | 533 | -10.0 |
| Nova Scotia | 1995/96 | 2,622 | .. | ... | . | 3,709 | ... |
| | 1996/97 | 2,113 | -19.4 | .. | . | 3,780 | 1.9 |
| | 1997/98 | 1,914 | -9.4 | 476 | . | 3,715 | -1.7 |
| | 1998/99 | 1,964 | 2.6 | 510 | 7.1 | 3,719 | 0.1 |
| | 1999/00 | 1,825 | -7.1 | 628 | 23.1 | 3,791 | 1.9 |
| | 2000/01 | 1,624 | -11.0 | 623 | -0.8 | 3,653 | -3.6 |
| New Brunswick ¹ | 1995/96 | 3,383 | .. | ... | . | 1,771 | ... |
| | 1996/97 | 2,919 | -13.7 | .. | . | 1,781 | 0.6 |
| | 1997/98 | 2,278 | -22.0 | 596 | . | 1,858 | 4.3 |
| | 1998/99 | 2,273 | -0.2 | 507 | -14.9 | 1,740 | -6.4 |
| | 1999/00 | 2,179 | -4.2 | 499 | -1.6 | 1,429 | -17.9 |
| | 2000/01 | .. | .. | 682 | 36.7 | 1,733 | 21.3 |
| Quebec | 1995/96 | 28,075 | .. | ... | . | 6,461 | ... |
| | 1996/97 | 28,753 | 2.4 | .. | . | 7,162 | 10.8 |
| | 1997/98 | 26,188 | -8.9 | 3,983 | . | 7,225 | 0.9 |
| | 1998/99 | 21,735 | -17.0 | 4,202 | 5.5 | 6,877 | -4.8 |
| | 1999/00 | 18,016 | -17.1 | 4,557 | 8.4 | 7,098 | 3.2 |
| | 2000/01 | 14,951 | -17.0 | 4,259 | -6.5 | 7,704 | 8.5 |
| Ontario | 1995/96 | 37,110 | .. | ... | . | 32,002 | ... |
| | 1996/97 | 36,530 | -1.6 | .. | . | 33,463 | 4.6 |
| | 1997/98 | 33,971 | -7.0 | 4,293 | . | 35,930 | 7.4 |
| | 1998/99 | 32,815 | -3.4 | 3,690 | -14.0 | 34,469 | -4.1 |
| | 1999/00 | 30,747 | -6.3 | 4,271 | 15.7 | 33,432 | -3.0 |
| | 2000/01 | 30,999 | 0.8 | 4,211 | -1.4 | 34,920 | 4.5 |
| Manitoba ² | 1995/96 | 2,433 | .. | ... | . | 3,209 | ... |
| | 1996/97 | 2,069 | -15.0 | .. | . | 3,657 | 14.0 |
| | 1997/98 | 1,439 | -30.4 | 526 | . | 3,659 | 0.1 |
| | 1998/99 | 1,393 | -3.2 | 672 | 27.8 | 4,426 | .. |
| | 1999/00 | 3,284 | 135.8 | 584 | -13.1 | .. | .. |
| | 2000/01 | 2,901 | -11.7 | 705 | 20.7 | 6,811 | .. |
| Saskatchewan | 1995/96 | 6,397 | .. | ... | . | 3,345 | ... |
| | 1996/97 | 4,802 | -24.9 | .. | . | 3,012 | -10.0 |
| | 1997/98 | 3,894 | -18.9 | 928 | . | 3,261 | 8.3 |
| | 1998/99 | 3,850 | -1.1 | 1,083 | 16.7 | 3,305 | 1.3 |
| | 1999/00 | 3,368 | -12.5 | 1,243 | 14.8 | 3,242 | -1.9 |
| | 2000/01 | 3,219 | -4.4 | 1,365 | 9.8 | 3,457 | 6.6 |
| Alberta | 1995/96 | 18,345 | .. | ... | . | 8,170 | ... |
| | 1996/97 | 16,535 | -9.9 | .. | . | 8,440 | 3.3 |
| | 1997/98 | 14,467 | -12.5 | 1,343 | . | 7,794 | -7.7 |
| | 1998/99 | 15,491 | 7.1 | 1,035 | -22.9 | 8,544 | 9.6 |
| | 1999/00 | 14,728 | -4.9 | 1,120 | 8.2 | 8,706 | 1.9 |
| | 2000/01 | 14,859 | 0.9 | 1,558 | 39.1 | 9,360 | 7.5 |

Table 7

Admissions to Sentenced Custody, Conditional Sentences and Probation, 1995/96 to 2000/01 - Concluded

| | | Provincial/Territorial Admissions | | | | | |
|---|---------|-----------------------------------|----------|-----------------------|----------|-----------|----------|
| | | Sentenced custody | % change | Conditional sentences | % change | Probation | % change |
| British Columbia | 1995/96 | 12,425 | .. | ... | . | 15,259 | .. |
| | 1996/97 | 11,537 | -7.1 | .. | . | 16,152 | 5.9 |
| | 1997/98 | 10,565 | -8.4 | 2,080 | . | 13,440 | -16.8 |
| | 1998/99 | 9,628 | -8.9 | 2,142 | 3.0 | 12,805 | -4.7 |
| | 1999/00 | 9,739 | 1.2 | 2,439 | 13.9 | 12,283 | -4.1 |
| | 2000/01 | 9,520 | -2.2 | 3,226 | 32.3 | 11,509 | -6.3 |
| Yukon | 1995/96 | 393 | .. | ... | . | 330 | .. |
| | 1996/97 | 310 | -21.1 | .. | . | 515 | 56.1 |
| | 1997/98 | 304 | -1.9 | 50 | . | 451 | -12.4 |
| | 1998/99 | 300 | -1.3 | 60 | 20.0 | 467 | 3.5 |
| | 1999/00 | 308 | 2.7 | 91 | 51.7 | 405 | -13.3 |
| | 2000/01 | 294 | -4.5 | 96 | 5.5 | 353 | -12.8 |
| Northwest Territories ³ | 1995/96 | .. | ... | ... | ... | .. | ... |
| | 1996/97 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| | 1997/98 | 1,573 | .. | .. | .. | 1,547 | .. |
| | 1998/99 | 1,594 | 1.3 | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| | 1999/00 | 1,108 | -30.5 | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| | 2000/01 | 802 | -27.6 | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| Nunavut | 1995/96 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| | 1996/97 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| | 1997/98 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| | 1998/99 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| | 1999/00 | .. | . | .. | . | .. | . |
| | 2000/01 | 229 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| Provincial/Territorial Total ⁴ | 1995/96 | 114,562 | ... | ... | ... | 76,940 | ... |
| | 1996/97 | 108,003 | -5.7 | .. | . | 80,599 | 4.8 |
| | 1997/98 | 98,628 | -10.1 | 14,608 | . | 81,606 | 1.2 |
| | 1998/99 | 93,045 | -4.1 | 14,236 | -2.5 | 78,819 | -3.4 |
| | 1999/00 | 86,885 | -6.6 | 15,792 | 10.9 | 72,789 | -7.7 |
| | 2000/01 | 80,928 | -4.5 | 17,084 | 8.2 | 81,939 | 3.2 |

. not available for any reference period

.. not available for specific reference period

... applicable

¹ New Brunswick data for 2000/01 are extracted from a new operational system; caution is recommended when comparing 2000/01 data to previous years.

² Manitoba's 1999/00 probation admissions are unavailable due to major system development work.

³ Figures reported by the Northwest Territories after 1998/99 no longer include figures reported by Nunavut.

⁴ Probation percentage change calculations from 1998/99 to 1999/00 and 1999/00 to 2000/01 exclude Manitoba due to missing data in 1999/00.

Source: Adult Correctional Services Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics

Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics

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JUSTICE SPENDING IN CANADA, 2000/01

by Andrea Taylor-Butts

Highlights¹

- Expenditures on policing, courts, legal aid, criminal prosecutions and adult corrections totalled more than \$11 billion or \$362 per Canadian in 2000/01. Total expenditures for these five sectors of the justice system increased approximately 3% over 1999/00 spending levels and 10% over 1996/97 expenditures.²
- For every dollar spent on these sectors of the justice system, 61 cents went to policing, 22 cents to adult corrections, 9 cents to courts, 5 cents to legal aid plans and 3 cents to criminal prosecutions.
- Since 1998/99 (the last year for which data were available for all 5 justice sectors), per capita expenditures increased in most provinces and territories. Among the provinces, Manitoba, Alberta and British Columbia recorded the largest increases, each gaining 7%. Per person expenditures were also up in Yukon (+6%), Newfoundland and Labrador (+6%), Saskatchewan (+5%), Ontario (+4%), New Brunswick (+3%), and Prince Edward Island (+2%). Spending remained constant in Quebec and Nova Scotia, varying by 1% or less.³
- In 2000/01 policing expenditures totalled \$6.8 billion, up 4% from the previous year.
- Overall, 2000/01 adult corrections costs were fairly stable at \$2.5 billion, rising only 1% over the previous year.
- Expenditures on courts amounted to just over \$1 billion in 2000/01. Total court spending increased 4% since 1998/99 (the last year for which courts data were available).
- Legal aid plan expenditures totalled \$512 million in 2000/01, up 2% from 1999/00.
- Criminal prosecution expenditures were \$335 million, up 15% from 1998/99 (the last year for which criminal prosecution data were available).

¹ Unless otherwise stated, all percentage change figures appearing in the Highlights section were calculated using constant dollars.

² Courts and prosecutions data are collected biennially. In order to make annual comparisons, court expenditures for 1993/94, 1995/96, 1997/98 and 1999/00 have been estimated based on the average between the reporting years preceding and following the reference period. Prosecutions expenditures for 1995/96, 1997/98 and 1999/00 were estimated in a similar manner.

³ In 2000/01, per capita expenditures in the Northwest Territories grew by 28% due, in part, to notable increases recorded for courts and adult corrections. Court expenditures included a marked increase in the cost of personnel benefits. For adult corrections, the inclusion of expenditure figures that were previously unavailable contributed to higher expenditures in 2000/01. See the Courts and Adult Corrections sections of this report for more information.

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Introduction

An effective and efficiently administered justice system is a concern for the public and governments alike. Expenditures on justice services must meet public expectations and needs while corresponding with fiscal realities.

This *Juristat* examines some of the government expenditures associated with operating five major sectors of the Canadian justice system: policing, courts, legal aid, criminal prosecutions and adult corrections. Expenditures for 2000/01 will be presented along with trends in justice spending. To remove the effects of inflation, data are based on constant dollars. To control for differences in population across the country and over time, expenditures are expressed in dollars per capita.⁴ To simultaneously adjust for the effects of inflation and population variations, per capita constant dollars are used.

Expenditure data for this *Juristat* cover the period up to 2000/01 and come principally from The Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics' resource, expenditure and personnel surveys and Statistics Canada Financial Management System. The data on justice expenditures generally include operating costs, but exclude capital costs, such as building construction (see Box 2: *About justice spending data and Data Sources* for details).

The 2000/01 economic climate and government spending

Knowledge of the general economic landscape can provide a context in which to better understand trends in government spending. In 2000, the Canadian economy continued to grow at a steady pace, but slower than the pace set in 1999. Signs of economic deceleration became visible. Gains in employment diminished, dropping to an annual rate of 2.2% from 2.8% in 1999. Fuelled by rising energy costs, inflation accelerated 4.1% in 2000, the greatest increase since 1989. Industry output also showed signs of slowing in 2000.⁵ The economic slowdown, which began in 2000, continued into 2001. For the first half of 2001, higher interest rates and energy prices, along with a drop in global high technology investment, ushered in a sharp decline in growth in all major economies around the globe, including Canada's.⁶

In terms of the government sector, 2000 saw the largest budgetary surpluses in a decade. This favourable financial position helped to encourage increases in government spending. Between 1999/00 and 2000/01, consolidated expenditures for federal, provincial/territorial and local governments grew nearly 5% to \$439 billion;⁷ adjusting for inflation, this represents a growth of 2%.⁸ During the 1970s and 1980s, government constant dollar per capita expenditures generally increased. After peaking in 1992/93, per capita constant dollar spending declined steadily until 1997/98, but has been on the rise since 1998/99.

Total government spending up in some sectors, down in others

The consolidated spending of federal, provincial/territorial and local governments on the 'protection of persons and property', of which justice is a part,⁹ totalled \$32.6 billion in 2000/01, or 7% of total spending. Although government spending on

⁴ Throughout this *Juristat*, the population estimates used to calculate per capita figures are provided by Statistics Canada, Census and Demographic Statistics, Demography Division. Populations as of July 1, 2001: final intercensal estimates for 1992 to 1995; final postcensal estimates for 1996 to 1997; updated postcensal estimates for 1998 to 2000; and preliminary postcensal estimates for 2001.

⁵ For further information see Statistics Canada 2001, "Year-End Review" and Statistics Canada 2002, "Economic Trends in 2001".

⁶ For further information, see Department of Finance Canada 2001, The Budget in Brief 2001.

⁷ This is based on data from Statistics Canada's Financial Management System (FMS). See Data Sources for more information.

⁸ To adjust for inflation, the Consumer Price Index (CPI) with a base year of 1992=100 was used to calculate constant dollars. For example, the CPI for 1999 was used to adjust spending figures for fiscal year 1999/00. So for every \$100 spent on justice services in 1992, \$110.50 was spent in 1999/00.

⁹ Protection of persons and property also comprises spending on national defence and other protection costs such as regulatory measures and firefighting. Justice spending is spending on policing, courts and corrections.

justice ceased being available as a separate category after 1998/99, data show that from 1972/73 to 1998/99, expenditures on justice have consistently accounted for about 40% of all protection of persons and property expenditures and 3% of total government expenditures.

In 2000/01, the majority of government spending went to social services (30% or \$133.3 billion), health care (16% or \$69.4 billion), education (14% or \$61.7 billion) and debt charges (13% or \$57.9 billion). Since the previous year, health care expenditures expressed in constant dollars increased notably, rising 8%. However, total constant dollar expenditures for protection of persons and property (-1%) and education (-1%), slipped slightly downward. Inflation-adjusted debt charge expenditures (-0.3%), and social service expenditures (+0.3%) went virtually unchanged from 1999/00 to 2000/01.

Compared to a decade ago, per capita inflation-adjusted spending figures dipped by more than 4%. Among the aforementioned sectors, debt charge per capita expenditures declined the most, down 18%, followed by protection of persons and property (-11%), and education (-2%). Social service (+4%) and health care (+15%) per capita expenditures both grew between 1990/91 and 2000/01.

Spending Within Selected Sectors of the Justice System¹⁰

In total, more than \$11 billion was spent on policing, courts, legal aid, criminal prosecutions and adult corrections in 2000/01. Spending for these sectors of the justice system amounted to \$362 per Canadian in 2000/01 (see Table 1). Taking into account the effects of inflation, total expenditures for these five sectors of the justice system increased approximately 3% over 1999/00. Policing activities represented 61% of the \$11 billion. At 22%, the costs associated with operating Canada's adult correctional system constituted the second largest share of justice dollars spent in 2000/01. Courts (9%), legal aid plans (5%) and criminal prosecutions (3%) expenditures made up the remaining 17% of justice spending. This distribution of expenditures is similar to that of previous years.

¹⁰ This Juristat will discuss expenditures and personnel for policing, courts, legal aid plans, criminal prosecutions and adult corrections. Previous Juristats have also included spending data for youth corrections. However, data for youth corrections are unavailable after 1998/99. Therefore, the most recent data available for youth corrections expenditures will be included in tables when applicable, but will not be included in any analysis. See Box 2: About justice spending data for more information on the data sources used.

Box 1: 2001/02 and beyond: Funds to increase the security and protection of Canadians

In the wake of the events in the United States on September 11, 2001, the security and protection of Canadians have been of particular concern.

In October of 2001, as part of its \$280-million Anti-Terrorism Plan, the federal government announced \$64 million in immediate, new funding for the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) and the Solicitor General of Canada to help improve the identification, prevention and elimination of threats to the security of Canadians.

From this \$64 million:

- The RCMP received \$10.3 million dollars for new technologies that will enhance security at airports, major centres, ports and border crossings. Along with technological enhancements, these funds have also been dedicated to improving the tactical capabilities of the RCMP Emergency Response Team.
- Another \$35 million is devoted to enhancing the ability of the RCMP to gather, analyse, assess and share intelligence and investigation information through new technologies, better technical and operational support and improved infrastructure systems (e.g., forensic laboratory services).
- \$9 million annually will be dedicated to RCMP staffing priorities, such as the Integrated National Security Enforcement Teams (INSETs) and Integrated Border Enforcement Teams (IBETs). INSETs partner the efforts of law enforcement and intelligence agencies to increase shared intelligence, investigation and enforcement capacity. IBETs are multi-agency law enforcement teams that integrate the efforts of Canadian (federal, provincial, and municipal) law enforcement agencies with those of their American counterparts, in order to ensure the secure and efficient operation of the Canada-U.S. border.
- \$5 million goes to support the deployment of RCMP to protect designated persons and sites in Canada.

- The Solicitor General of Canada received \$4.9 million to develop and implement the Canada Public Safety Information Network (CPSIN), a national information network linking various criminal justice, enforcement and national security agencies. A portion of this money also goes to training and planning initiatives under the Counter-Terrorism Operational Readiness Program, in order to strengthen Canada's ability to respond to terrorist attacks.

Source: Solicitor General of Canada. 2001. Background: An Investment in Canada's National Security. Ottawa.

Initiatives outlined in the 2001 federal budget maintain the federal government's commitment to enhancing the security of Canadians. The budget, announced on December 10, 2001, presented a five-year \$7.7 billion funding strategy for initiatives intended to improve the safety and protection of Canadians. A number of these initiatives will have direct implications for the justice sector.

- For instance, \$1.6 billion over five years is allocated to strengthen intelligence and policing. This intelligence and policing effort will, among other things, provide monies to improve information sharing capabilities among law enforcement, intelligence and national security agencies; to increase the number of police and intelligence officers; and to see that these officers are better equipped.
- Another \$2.2 billion is dedicated to measures to improve the safety of air travel and implement new air security measures.
- As well, the budget provides \$1.2 billion for enhancing the security and efficiency of the Canada-U.S. border. Part of this \$1.2 billion will go to the creation of more Integrated Border Enforcement Teams.

Source: Department of Finance Canada. 2001. The Budget in Brief 2001. Ottawa.

Total per capita spending on justice services has increased fairly consistently over the last four years. If inflation is taken into consideration, per capita spending on justice rose 6% between 1996/97 and 2000/01 (see Table 1). Nevertheless, despite recent increases 2000/01 per capita constant dollar spending was 3% below that of 1990/91.¹¹

A more detailed discussion of expenditures within each of these five sectors is offered below. However, readers should bear in mind that the data do not cover all justice spending. For instance, capital expenditures (e.g., spending on prison construction) are generally not included, nor are the costs for justice-related policy development and research activities. As well, the expenditures discussed here generally do not include

funding of direct services provided by non-government organizations, such as those offered to victims and offenders. Spending on court-ordered child support programs, victims' services, victims' compensation awards, and funding for crime prevention are also excluded from expenditure figures.

Provincial and territorial variations in spending

Justice spending can differ strikingly between provinces and territories (see Box 3). Across the provincial and territorial jurisdictions the cost of administering justice services in 2000/01 ranged from \$186 per capita in Newfoundland and Labrador up to \$1,106 per capita in the Northwest Territories (see Table 2).

Between 1998/99 and 2000/01, total inflation-adjusted, per capita expenditures on justice increased in most provinces and territories (see Table 2).¹² Among the provinces, Manitoba, Alberta and British Columbia recorded the largest increases, each gaining 7%. Per person expenditures were also up in Newfoundland and Labrador (+6%), Saskatchewan (+5%), Ontario (+4%), New Brunswick (+3%), and Prince Edward Island (+2%). Spending remained constant in Quebec and Nova Scotia, varying by 1% or less. Spending also rose in the territories. Justice expenditures increased 6% in Yukon, while spending on justice services in the Northwest Territories was 28% greater than in 1998/99.¹³

Box 2: About justice spending data

The Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics collects resource and expenditure data for five justice sectors: policing, courts, legal aid, criminal prosecutions and adult corrections. In the case of youth corrections, national estimates on spending are available from Justice Canada up to 1998/99.

Police expenditures include actual operating expenditures that are paid from police force budgets, such as salaries and wages. Revenues, recoveries and capital expenditures are excluded. All police agencies are covered, with the exception of specialized enforcement areas such as the Canadian Security Intelligence Service. Personnel involved in the enforcement of specific statutes in the areas of income tax, customs and excise, immigration, fisheries and wildlife are also excluded.

Court expenditures include all operating expenditures (salaries and benefits) for judges and support staff in the Supreme Court, the Tax Court, the Federal Court of Canada, the Office of the Commissioner for Federal Judicial Affairs, the Judicial Council and all courts in the provinces and territories. Excluded are maintenance enforcement services, building occupancy costs, prisoner escort services, and costs associated with coroner inquests.

Legal aid plan expenditures include payments made to private law firms and legal aid plan staff for the provision of legal advice and representation in criminal and civil matters. Law office and community law clinic expenses (staff salaries, benefits and overhead) are included, as are all central administrative expenses. These expenditures represent spending by legal aid plans only. It should be noted that this spending may not equal government contributions to legal aid plans in a given year.

Criminal prosecution expenditures include all operating expenditures (salaries and benefits) for full-time and contract lawyers, who conduct the prosecution of criminal cases on behalf of the Crown. All direct support staff costs are also included.

Adult correctional expenditures include operating expenditures for federal and provincial correctional facilities (salaries and benefits for custodial and non-custodial staff), community supervision (probation, parole, bail supervision), headquarters, and parole boards (federal and provincial).

Youth correctional expenditures are estimates provided by Justice Canada and are likely an underestimate of the total costs of youth correctional expenditures. The figures include youth alternative measures, custodial services, probation supervision, judicial interim release supervision, medical and psychological reports, post-adjudication detention, pre-disposition reports, review boards and screening services. Excluded are those costs related to pre-trial detention (remand and lock-ups) and the adjudication of young offenders for provincial offences. These data are not available beyond 1998/99.

Box 3: Factors that contribute to expenditure differences across provinces and territories

The distinct characteristics of each jurisdiction make it rather difficult to simply compare per capita figures. Differences in the population characteristics of a jurisdiction (i.e., its size, density and socio-economic attributes), crime rates, caseloads, as well as how the various sectors of the justice system are organized and administered within each province and territory are all examples of factors that can influence justice spending.

For instance, it is often more difficult and more costly (on a per person basis) to deliver services to smaller populations that are distributed across vast areas than it is to service less remote areas with higher population densities. Thus, the unique geographic and demographic characteristics of the territories help to explain why per capita spending on justice services is considerably higher in Yukon, the Northwest Territories and Nunavut, than it is elsewhere in Canada (see Table 3).

Therefore, comparisons across provinces and territories should be made with caution.

¹¹ Spending comparisons between 1990/91 and 2000/01 only include expenditures for policing, courts, legal aid, and adult corrections, since prosecution data are unavailable prior to 1994/95 and youth corrections data are unavailable after 1998/99.

¹² Data for court and criminal prosecution expenditures are only available on a biennial basis. Therefore, the percentage change in total justice spending between 1999/00 and 2000/01 could not be calculated.

¹³ Higher per capita expenditures in the Northwest Territories are, in part, the result of a marked increase in the cost of benefits paid to court personnel in 2000/01 and the inclusion of expenses for adult corrections that were previously unavailable. See the Courts and Adult Corrections sections of this report for more information.

Box 4: Funding for victims of crime

Efforts to enhance the role of victims in the criminal justice process have been under way since the mid-1980s. In December 1999, changes to the *Criminal Code* came into effect that strengthen the role and participation of crime victims in the criminal justice system and improve the mechanisms for victim support. To further address victims' needs, in March 2000 the federal government committed \$25 million over a 5-year period to victim-related initiatives. As part of this commitment, \$15 million of the funding is dedicated to consultation, research and public education on victims' rights. The other \$10 million (\$2 million per year for five years) is dedicated to the Victims' Fund. The Victims' Fund was established in August 2000 with the following objectives:

- To promote public awareness of victimization and its effects, victims' needs, the availability of victims' services, the role of victims in the justice system and relevant legislation
- To improve access to and participation in the justice system
- To identify and develop programs to fill gaps in victims' support services
- To enhance the role of community and non-governmental organizations as service-providers; to build networks to improve service delivery; and to increase the involvement of community and non-governmental organizations in policy and legislation development

- To provide financial support to family members of homicide victims as well as limited, emergency funding to victims when other financial assistance is unavailable
- To promote the implementation of legal reforms that address victims' needs
- To promote the implementation of the Canadian Statement of Basic Principles of Justice for Victims of Crime

Funding for victims' services will also come from the monies collected from victim surcharges (court-imposed penalties that offenders must pay). Revenues from victim surcharges must be used for victim services within the province or territory where they were generated. It is expected that in total, these surcharges will produce more than \$10 million in revenues annually.

Sources: Department of Justice Canada. 2000. *Background: Victims Fund*. Ottawa.

Department of Justice Canada, Policy Centre for Victim Issues. *Victims of Crime Initiative*. <<http://Canada.justice.gc.ca/en/ps/voc/fund.html>>. Last modified August 3, 2000. (Accessed on February 21, 2002).

Department of Justice Canada, Policy Centre for Victim Issues. 2001. *Fact Sheet: The Victim Fund*. Ottawa.

Box 5: Justice revenues

There are a number of activities within the justice sector that help to generate funds. Below are a few examples of these revenue-generating activities from some of the different sectors of the justice system.

Policing

Many police agencies offer cost recovery services such as employee and volunteer security screening, security clearance checks, fingerprinting, insurance confirmations, as well as issuing permits and licences. In addition, the RCMP develops advanced policing technologies such as bomb disposal units, biotechnology products as well as education and training tools, which it markets internationally (Law Commission of Canada 2002).

In 1989, legislation was passed allowing the RCMP to confiscate wealth (e.g., money, vehicles, houses, jewellery) acquired through illicit activities. Seized assets are held pending the outcome of judicial procedures. If the courts determine that assets are to be forfeited, the proceeds from these forfeitures go to the government, which can in turn, use these revenues to fund social and other programs. In 2000/01, forfeiture proceeds totalled \$10.7 million and the RCMP Proceeds of Crime units impounded assets valued at approximately \$23.6 million. (It should be noted that forfeitures are dependent on the decisions of the court. Confiscated assets may not result in forfeiture if charges are dismissed before the case goes to trial or if there is not a conviction. As well, it may take two or three years for a case to come to trial, thereby delaying the time between asset seizure and forfeiture.)

Courts

The fines paid by offenders are another source of justice revenue. However it must be noted, that while the court may issue a fine, there is no guarantee that it will be paid. Additionally, many fines are paid through fine option programs. Fine option programs allow offenders to work off all or part of their fines through community service.

In adult criminal courts fines were imposed in 37% of convictions, with a median amount of \$400, in 2000/01 (Thomas 2002). In total, \$145 million in fines was issued to adult offenders by provincial/territorial court judges across eight jurisdictions.¹⁴ Under the *Youth Offenders Act*, convicted youth may also be ordered to pay fines, up to a maximum of \$1,000. In 2000/01, youth courts ordered a total of nearly \$1 million in fines for all federal statute offences.¹⁵ The median fine imposed in youth court cases in 2000/01 was \$125 (deSouza 2002).

Legal Aid

Depending on their financial circumstances and the eligibility of their case, some legal aid clients may be required to contribute to the cost of their legal defence. These client contributions, along with monies recovered as the result of court settlements, awards and judgements, are a source of revenue for the legal aid system. In 2000/01, client contributions and recoveries generated \$16.3 million in revenue nationally. This amount represented 3% of total legal aid revenues in 2000/01.

Adult Corrections

CORCAN is a Correctional Service of Canada program that provides federal offenders with employment, job and life skill training to help offenders develop the skills they will need to become productive employees upon their release from prison. In 2000/01, CORCAN employed over 2,000 employees in the areas of manufacturing, agribusiness, construction, textiles, and services. CORCAN products and services are sold primarily to government departments, public institutions and non-profit organizations. In 1999/00 CORCAN had sales of almost \$70 million and earned revenues of nearly \$57 million in 2000/01. In 2000/01, manufacturing produced the largest portion of CORCAN's total revenues (37%), followed by construction (27%).

Sources: Correctional Service Canada. 2001. *CORCAN Annual Report 2000-2001*. Ottawa.

deSouza, Paul. 2002. "Youth Court Statistics, 2000/01." *Juristat*. (Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 85-225-XPE). Ottawa: Minister responsible for Statistics Canada, Vol.22, no. 3.

Law Commission of Canada. 2002. *In Search of Security: The Roles of Public Police and Private Agencies, Discussion Paper*. Ottawa.

Royal Canadian Mounted Police. 2001. *2000/01 Performance Report, Royal Canadian Mounted Police*. Ottawa.

Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics. 2002b. *Legal Aid in Canada: Resources and Caseload Statistics 2000-01*. (Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 85F0015XIE). Ottawa: Minister responsible for Statistics Canada.

Thomas, Mikhail. 2002. "Adult Criminal Court Statistics, 2000/01." *Juristat*. (Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 85-002-XIE). Ottawa: Minister responsible for Statistics Canada, Vol.22, no. 2.

¹⁴ This figure is based on data from the Adult Criminal Court Survey (ACCS) and does not include data from New Brunswick, Manitoba, British Columbia, the Northwest Territories and Nunavut in 2000/01. The figure for the total fines imposed does not cover superior courts.

¹⁵ This figure is based on data from the Youth Courts Survey (YCS), which has full national coverage.

Policing¹⁶

The federal, provincial and municipal governments all assume some responsibility for policing in Canada. At the federal level, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) is responsible for enforcing federal statutes. The RCMP also provides national police service through the operation of forensic laboratories, identification services, the Canadian Police Information Centre (a national computer information system), and the Canadian Police College.

Provincial/territorial police enforce the *Criminal Code*, some other federal statutes, as well as provincial statutes in areas not served by municipal police. Responsibility for provincial/territorial policing rests with each province/territory. Quebec and Ontario have their own provincial police services. Newfoundland and Labrador also maintain their own police services but share provincial policing duties with the RCMP. In the remaining provinces and territories, the RCMP is contracted to provide provincial/territorial police services.

Municipal policing also falls under the jurisdiction of each province/territory. Municipal police enforce the *Criminal Code*, other federal statutes, provincial statutes and municipal by-laws for a given municipality or municipal region. Municipalities may contract provincial police or the RCMP to provide municipal services.

Increased spending on policing¹⁷

Police expenditures represent actual operating expenditures and include salaries and wages, benefits, as well as other operating expenses such as accommodation costs, fuel and maintenance. Capital expenditures, revenues and recoveries are excluded. It should be noted that the specific items included in operating expenditures tend to differ considerably from municipality to municipality. For example, for some municipalities certain costs (e.g., accommodation, by-law enforcement, and court security) and services (e.g., computing, personnel, and financial services) may be included within the police service's operating budget. However, in others these costs and services may be paid for by other departments or through the service's capital budget, which is not included among the operating expenditures. Figures should therefore, be viewed as approximate.

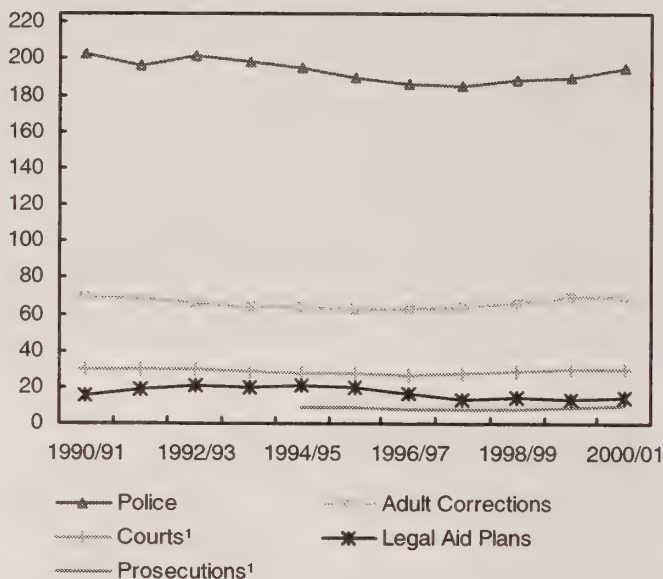
Expenditures on policing were more than \$6.8 billion in 2000/01, representing a 4% increase over the previous year, after controlling for inflation (see Table 1). Employing over two-thirds of the 56,000 police officers in Canada, municipal policing represented about 57% (\$3.9 billion) of all policing expenditures. Provincial/territorial policing accounted for 23% (\$1.6 billion) of expenditures and federal policing for 19% (\$1.3 billion).

After adjusting for inflation, per capita spending on policing in 2000/01 was 4% below 1990/91 expenditures. However, since 1997/98, per capita constant dollar expenditures have actually increased nearly 5% (see Figure 1). These recent increases in police costs coincide with a slight rise in the number of police officers hired over the last few years. Following seven consecutive years of decline, the number of police officers per capita has grown modestly for each of the last 3 years and reached 182 per 100,000 population in 2000.¹⁸

Figure 1



Spending per capita (constant 1992\$)



¹ Figures for 1991/92, 1993/94, 1995/96, 1997/98 and 1999/00 for Courts and Prosecutions are estimates.

Sources: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics: Police Administration Annual Survey; Courts Resources, Expenditures and Personnel Survey; Legal Aid Survey; Criminal Prosecutions Personnel and Expenditures Survey; and Adult Correctional Services Survey.

All provinces and territories seeing a rise in police spending

There is considerable variation in the cost of policing across the provinces and territories.¹⁹ Historically among the provinces, policing costs have been typically lowest in the Atlantic provinces and highest in Ontario and Quebec. This trend continued in 2000/01. Further, the sparse populations of Yukon, the Northwest Territories and Nunavut make the cost

¹⁶ Policing expenditures provided in this report do not include Canadian Security Intelligence Service, railway or military police; private security guards and investigators; or federal and provincial personnel deployed to enforce statutes such as income tax, customs and excise, immigration, fisheries and wildlife statutes.

¹⁷ Most municipal police services operate on a calendar year (e.g., 2000) while provincial services and the RCMP use a fiscal year (e.g., 2000/01). All policing expenditures will be referred to using a fiscal year.

¹⁸ For more information on police personnel see Filyer 2002, Police Resources in Canada, 2001.

¹⁹ Provinces and territories are not responsible for federal policing and other RCMP administrative expenditures. Therefore, expenditure data by province/territory only include spending for municipal and provincial/territorial policing. Provincial/territorial expenditures on RCMP contracts reflect only the cost billed to the province/territory or municipality and not the total cost of the contract or any additional policing costs. Remaining RCMP contract costs are included among the federal expenditures.

of policing in the territories much higher than elsewhere in Canada. While nationally, police spending amounted to \$221 per Canadian in 2000/01 (see Table 1), per capita policing costs were \$480 per person for Nunavut, \$449 for the Northwest Territories and \$333 for Yukon (see Table 3).

Since the previous year, police expenditures grew in every province and territory across Canada, to some extent (see Table 3). Controlling for inflation, increases in per capita spending on police services were the highest in Nunavut (+14%), British Columbia (+8%) and Yukon (+5%). Nova Scotia, Alberta and Quebec had the smallest change in per capita policing costs, increasing less than 1% from 1999/00. In the remaining jurisdictions, inflation-adjusted per capita police expenditures were up between 2% and 4% in 2000/01.

Courts²⁰

The Canadian court system is the shared responsibility of the federal and provincial/territorial governments. There are four principal levels of courts: Federal Courts; Provincial/Territorial Appeal Courts; Provincial/Territorial Superior Courts; and Provincial/Territorial Courts. The Federal Courts are the highest courts in the country, are national in scope, and are administered by the federal government. Included at this level are the Supreme Court of Canada, the Tax Court of Canada and the Federal Court of Canada. The Provincial/Territorial Courts of Appeal are the highest courts in the provinces and territories, followed by the Provincial/Territorial Superior Courts. The Courts of Appeal and Superior Courts are administered by the provinces/territories, but federally appointed judges preside over these courts. Finally, the fourth tier of the court system is composed of the Provincial/Territorial Courts. These courts and the appointment of their judges are solely the responsibility of the provinces/territories.

Expenditures for courts increased, federally and provincially/territorially²¹

Court expenditures include the cost of personnel salaries, wages and benefits along with a number of other operating expenditures such as costs for human resources services, computer systems, transcripts, law library/publications and witnesses, to name a few. However, there are inter-jurisdictional differences in what types of costs are included among these 'other' expenditures. For example, most witness costs are included in the budgets of courts in Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick, Ontario, Alberta, Yukon, the Northwest Territories and Nunavut, but for the other jurisdictions, these costs are not included.

In 2000/01, just over \$1.0 billion was spent to operate Canadian courts, amounting to \$34 per Canadian (see Table 1). Since 1998/99 (the last year for which data were available), total court expenditures increased 4% when controlling for inflation. Spending at the provincial/territorial level constitutes more than 91% of all court expenditures.²² Total spending increased across both federal and provincial/territorial jurisdictions between 1998/99 and 2000/01. In constant dollars, expenditures rose 3% at the federal level and 4% across the provinces/territories.

After peaking in the earlier 1990s and declining throughout the middle of the decade, per capita spending on court operations has been on the rise over the last few years. After 1992/93, per capita costs began to decline and by 1996/97 per capita constant dollar spending had dropped 11%. In 2000/01 per capita constant dollar expenditures had not quite reached 1992/93 levels, but were up 2% from 1998/99 and 9% from the 1996/97 low (see Figure 1).

Total court expenditures up in more than half of provincial/territorial jurisdictions

Across Canada, total court spending rose in seven of the thirteen provincial and territorial jurisdictions, with many of the increases likely due to negotiated salary and benefit increases.²³ In addition to salary increases, the recent rise in national court expenditures could also be due to the increase in the number of more complex cases, which require more court appearances and take longer to resolve. For example, despite an overall drop in the number of cases, the average number of charges per case in adult criminal courts grew from 2.13 in 1998/99 to 2.17 in 2000/01, and has increased 5% since 1996/97. This growth in the number of charges per case coincides with a rise in the amount of time it takes to process cases. In 2000/01, the mean number of court appearances per case was 5, up 6% from 1998/99 and 19% from 1996/97. Similarly, while in 1996/97 the median processing time for all adult criminal court cases was 80 days, this figure rose to 84 days in 1998/99 and 87 days by 2000/01.²⁴

Nationally, salaries and benefits for personnel constitute 80% (\$829 million) of the cost of operating Canada's courts. Court and administrative staff accounted for 54% of salary and benefits expenditures, and judiciary for the remaining 46%. Between 1998/99 and 2000/01, total inflation-adjusted expenditures on court salaries and benefits increased 3%. Aside from salaries and benefits, other operating expenditures rose 10%.

Per capita court spending increased in 2 territories and 6 provinces

Among the territories in 2000/01, court costs varied from \$65 per person in Nunavut (which only has a territorial superior court) to \$165 per capita in Yukon and \$188 in the Northwest Territories (which each have territorial superior courts as well as territorial courts). Among the provinces, per capita expenditures ranged from \$22 per capita in Quebec to \$43 in Nova Scotia (see Table 3).

²⁰ Courts spending data are collected biennially. Therefore, data are only available for alternate years beginning with 1988/89.

²¹ Revenues, recoveries and capital expenditures for long-term assets are excluded.

²² Provincial/territorial expenditures include the salaries, benefits, allowances and annuities paid to federally appointed judges presiding over provincial/territorial appeal and superior courts (Section 96 judges). These costs are paid by the Office of the Commissioner for Federal Judicial Affairs (OCFJA), but are entered under the jurisdiction where the judges are working rather than the OCFJA in order to determine the true cost of operating the courts.

²³ For further information see Snowball 2002a, Courts Personnel and Expenditures, 2000/01.

²⁴ For more information see Roberts and Grimes 2000, "Adult Criminal Courts Statistics, 1998/99". Also see Thomas 2002, "Adult Criminal Courts Statistics, 2000/01".

Looking at spending on a per person basis, the Northwest Territories reported the largest constant dollar increase in court expenditures among all jurisdictions (+34%) since 1998/99, followed by Yukon (+22%).²⁵ As mentioned earlier, these increases in expenditures are generally the result of negotiated salary and benefit increases and retroactive payments. In Alberta, spending also grew notably, rising 21%. However, this increase was due largely to retroactive benefits and one-time compensation pay-outs along with the purchase of telecommunications equipment and development costs for a criminal tracking system. If these one-time costs were excluded from 2000/01 expenditures, then the increase in per capita spending would be just 2%. Compared to 1998/99, 2000/01 per capita provincial court costs moved modestly upward in Newfoundland and Labrador, New Brunswick, Manitoba, and Saskatchewan, increasing between 2% to 5%. Ontario was stable at 1%. However, per capita constant dollar spending decreased between 3% and 8% in Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, Quebec and British Columbia.

Legal Aid

Legal aid services assist in assuring that Canadians have access to justice by providing low-income individuals in need of professional legal counsel with information, referrals, advice and representation. Accordingly, there are financial eligibility criteria and depending on the client's financial situation, legal costs may be covered in part or in full. The nature of the case is also taken into consideration before legal aid is granted.

While the extent of coverage varies, both civil and criminal matters are covered by legal aid plans. Family matters constitute many of the civil cases covered by legal aid, especially in Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, Saskatchewan and Yukon. Family matters are the only types of civil cases handled by legal aid plans in New Brunswick. In most jurisdictions coverage for criminal matters is available for indictable offences (i.e., offences which are more serious and carry a maximum sentence of 5 years in prison). Cases involving the least serious types of *Criminal Code* offences, summary offences (i.e., offences carrying a fine of not more than \$2,000 or imprisonment of not more than 6 months), are generally eligible for coverage only if there is a threat of imprisonment or loss of livelihood.²⁶

There are cost-sharing agreements between the federal and provincial/territorial governments to fund legal aid programs. However, each province and territory is responsible for the administration and delivery of its own legal aid services. And while each jurisdiction has a unique legal aid plan, there are 3 general models on which the various legal aid systems are based.

First, *Judicare* is a fee-for-service system where clients can retain any private-sector attorney willing to represent them in their case. The lawyer then bills the legal aid program for services rendered. The *Judicare* system is used in New Brunswick, Ontario and Alberta. Second is a staff system that is used in Newfoundland and Labrador,²⁷ Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia and Saskatchewan. In a staff system a team of lawyers is employed for the explicit purpose of providing legal aid services. However, even with a staff system, the use of

private lawyers may be necessary from time to time. Finally, the mixed model, operating in Quebec, Manitoba, British Columbia, Yukon, the Northwest Territories and Nunavut, uses private and staff lawyers in combination. Under this delivery system, clients choose their representation from a selection of private and staff attorneys.

Legal aid plan expenditures up modestly

In 2000/01 a total of \$512 million was spent on the provision of legal aid services in Canada, an increase of 2% over the previous year (in inflation-adjusted dollars). On a per capita basis, total legal aid plan expenditures were the equivalent of nearly \$17 per Canadian (see Table 1). The amount of expenditures reported represents spending by legal aid plans only. It should be noted that this spending may not equal government contributions to legal aid plans in a given year.

The activities involved in delivering legal services directly to clients represent the largest portion of legal aid plan expenditures. The referrals, guidance and legal representation provided by private and staff lawyers as well as other legal aid staff constituted 83% of legal aid plan expenditures in 2000/01. The administrative costs of operating legal aid offices represented 14% of legal aid plan expenditures and other legal aid program activities such as, research, public legal advice and grants to other agencies, constituted the remaining 3%.

Controlling for the effects of inflation, per capita spending on legal aid has been stable since 1998/99, following several years of decline. Legal aid plan expenditures climbed upward throughout the first half of the 1990s, peaking in 1994/95, then declined consistently until 1998/99 (see Figure 1). Adjusting for inflation, 2000/01 per capita expenditures were 14% below 1996/97 spending levels. In 2000/01, per capita spending was down just 3% from 1998/99 and had increased 1% over the previous year.

Recent increases in the number of filed and approved legal aid applications, along with the recent growth in legal aid personnel, may help explain the recent increase in legal aid plan spending.²⁸ Since 1998/99, there has been a steady rise in the number of applicants approved for full legal aid services, with approvals gaining 3% in 2000/01 over the previous year.

²⁵ Court expenditures for the Northwest Territories in 2000/01 reflect a marked increase in the cost of benefits paid to court personnel. Court expenditures for the Northwest Territories in 2000/01 include a \$500,000 payment to the judiciary pension plan. As well, revisions in the methods used to calculate court staff benefits also contributed to the difference in court benefit expenditures between 1998/99.

²⁶ For more information on legal aid coverage, see Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics 2002b, Legal Aid in Canada: Resource and Caseload Statistics 2000-01.

²⁷ Newfoundland and Labrador consider their delivery system to be a mixed system. However, because spending on staff lawyers constitutes such a high proportion of its direct legal expenditures on legal aid, data for Newfoundland and Labrador are presented as if it operated primarily as a staff system.

²⁸ For more information on trends in legal aid plan applications, see Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics 2002b, Legal Aid in Canada: Resource and Caseload Statistics 2000-01.

Increases in spending by legal aid plans greatest in Ontario and Nunavut

In 2000/01, legal aid plan expenditures were highest in Nunavut, costing \$104 per capita. Particularly for this territory, the need to send lawyers to a number of remote communities coupled with high transportation costs contributed to high per capita legal aid plan expenditures. In the Northwest Territories and Yukon expenditures were comparatively lower at \$86 and \$34 per capita, respectively. Among the provinces,²⁹ spending on legal aid services ranged from about \$5 per capita in Prince Edward Island and New Brunswick to \$22 per capita in British Columbia.

Between 1999/00 and 2000/01, legal aid plans in Ontario (+4%) and Nunavut (+3%) recorded the highest per capita constant dollar increases in expenditures (see Table 3). Per capita spending also rose slightly in British Columbia (+2%), Prince Edward Island (+1%) and Saskatchewan (+1%). Except for in Yukon (-18%) and the Northwest Territories (-7%), year-over-year constant dollar spending by legal aid plans declined between 1% and 4% in the remaining jurisdictions.

Criminal Prosecutions³⁰

Crown prosecutors are attorneys who prosecute violations of the *Criminal Code* and other federal statutes on behalf of the Crown. Additionally, Crown attorneys in some jurisdictions also prosecute violations of provincial statutes and municipal bylaws. Responsibility for Crown prosecution activities is divided between the Attorney General of Canada (who is also the Minister of Justice) and the Attorney General of each province.

In all provinces except Nova Scotia, which operates an independent prosecution service, Crown attorneys are provincially appointed. However in some provinces, Justice Canada is responsible for prosecuting violations of federal legislation other than the *Criminal Code* (e.g., the *Controlled Drugs and Substances Act*, and the *Customs Act*). In the territories, where all Crown counsel are federally appointed representatives of the Attorney General of Canada, Justice Canada handles all criminal prosecutions. At times when all other Crown attorneys are occupied, it may be necessary for private lawyers to be granted the authorization to act as agents of the Crown, on a per diem basis. This practice is employed, to at least some extent, in all provincial/territorial and federal jurisdictions.

In addition to their responsibilities in the courtroom, Crown prosecutors are involved in a variety of other functions such as pre-charge consultations with police, pre- and post-trial activities, communicating with victims and witnesses, policy development, as well as public education. The Crown prosecutors in British Columbia, Quebec and New Brunswick are also responsible for approving a charge prior to it being laid by police. The range of functions fulfilled by Crown attorneys plays a role in determining prosecutorial costs and consequently, inter-jurisdictional variations in spending.

Criminal prosecution expenditures up, with notable increases at the federal level

In 2000/01, over \$335 million was spent on federal and provincial criminal prosecutions. Total prosecution

expenditures amounted to almost \$11 per Canadian (see Table 1). Prosecution expenditures include the cost of salaries, wages, and benefits for permanent lawyers and those on contract, as well as other prosecutorial personnel such as paralegal and clerical staff. These costs made up the bulk (75% or \$253 million) of prosecution expenditures. Other operating costs associated with prosecutions include private attorneys (10% or \$32.6 million), and other operating costs such as witness costs, transportation and training (15% or \$49.6 million).

In 2000/01, total criminal prosecution expenditures expressed in constant dollars jumped 15% over 1998/99 figures, the last year for which expenditure data are available. Expenditure data for criminal prosecutions are collected biennially and are only available as far back as 1994/95. Total inflation-adjusted per capita spending on prosecutions declined between 1994/95 and 1996/97, and rose in subsequent years (see Figure 1). Adjusting for inflation and population changes, total operating expenditures for prosecutions increased by 14% over 1996/97 spending levels.

As the responsibility for the majority of criminal prosecutions rests with the provinces, provincial expenditures on criminal prosecutions accounted for 83% of total criminal prosecution spending. Provincial expenditures on prosecutions totalled \$278 million dollars in 2000/01, an increase in constant dollars of 12% over 1998/99. However at 33%, Justice Canada constant dollar spending increased by more than double the provincial rate. At the provincial level, recent increases in criminal prosecution expenditures in most jurisdictions are generally due to negotiated increases in salaries. At the federal level, prosecution activities stemming from the Integrated Proceeds of Crime Legislation, Anti-Smuggling Initiative, Canada Drug Strategy and Organized Crime Legislation stimulated an increase in caseload, personnel and salaries, thereby accounting for much of the escalation in spending from 1998/99 to 2000/01.³¹

Prosecution expenditures up in all provinces but three

Typically, criminal prosecution spending varies considerably from province to province.³² In total, the provincial price tag for prosecution services amounted to about \$9 per capita in 2000/01 (see Table 3).³³ Expenditures in the provincial jurisdictions ranged from \$6 per capita in Prince Edward Island to \$15 per capita in British Columbia.

²⁹ Data for Newfoundland and Labrador were unavailable.

³⁰ Data on criminal prosecutions resources, expenditures and personnel are only available as far back as 1994/95 and are collected on a biennial basis. Therefore, these data are unavailable for 1995/96, 1997/98 and 1999/00.

³¹ For further information see, *Snowball 2002b*, Criminal Prosecutions Personnel and Expenditures, 2000/01.

³² Justice Canada is responsible for criminal prosecutions in Yukon, the Northwest Territories and Nunavut. Therefore, separate expenditures for each territory are not available.

³³ Expenditures on private lawyers were not available for Newfoundland and Labrador, Quebec's expenditures exclude municipal court prosecutions (which constitute about 20% of the caseload), and Saskatchewan's expenditures exclude employee benefits.

From 1998/99 to 2000/01, criminal prosecution expenditures rose in most provinces. Manitoba experienced the largest percentage increase in prosecution spending, where per capita expenditures grew 27%, after adjusting for inflation. Constant dollar per capita expenditures dropped in three provinces: Nova Scotia (-7%), Newfoundland and Labrador (-3%), and Prince Edward Island (-3%).

Adult Corrections³⁴

On any given day in 2000/01, there was an average of 151,500 adults under the supervision of the Canadian correctional system.³⁵ The majority of adult offenders (79%) were under community supervision, while the remaining 21% were in custody.³⁶ Among those under detention, 40% were under federal authority and 60% were in provincial/territorial custody. Caseload data are available for the following key areas of correctional responsibility: custodial remands and other temporary detention (e.g., immigration holds), custodial sentences, conditional sentences, probation and conditional release.

The adult correctional system is split between federal and provincial/territorial jurisdictions. Custodial remands and other temporary detention, conditional sentences and probation are the responsibility of provincial/territorial correctional services. Offenders serving custodial sentences of less than two years are the responsibility of the provinces/territories and those serving two years or more fall under federal jurisdiction. Provincial/territorial authorities undertake the supervision of conditionally released provincial/territorial offenders and the National Parole Board and Correctional Service Canada share the responsibility for federal offenders. With the exception of the provinces of Quebec, Ontario and British Columbia (which have their own parole boards), the parole of offenders sentenced to provincial/territorial facilities as well as those in federal institutions falls under the jurisdiction of the National Parole Board.

Little change in spending on corrections over previous year

In 2000/01, nearly \$2.5 billion was spent on operating adult correctional services in Canada. This amount is almost unchanged from the previous year, rising just 1% when controlling for inflation. Adult corrections costs amounted to \$80 per Canadian (see Table 1).

The greatest portion of the corrections dollar went to custodial services (74%) followed by community supervision (13%), headquarters and central services (11%) and parole (2%). In recent years, there has been a small shift in spending proportions with slightly less being allotted to custodial services (which accounted for 77% in 1996/97) and slightly more to community supervision and headquarters and central services.

In 2000/01, the federal portion of the corrections bill amounted to almost \$1.3 billion (52% of total spending), while the provincial/territorial price tag was just under \$1.2 billion (48% of total spending). Since 1999/00, total constant dollar spending at the federal level decreased 3%, while provincial and territorial expenditures rose about 6%.³⁷ Nevertheless, there were variations in the percentage increases across the provinces and territories, with some provinces/territories experiencing

notable spending growth and others recording no change or declines in expenditures.

During the early to mid-1990's, expenditures on adult corrections declined but generally have been increasing since 1996/97. Based on inflation-adjusted figures, per capita spending in 2000/01 was 1% higher than a decade earlier and 12% higher than 1996/97 spending levels (see Figure 1).

There are a number of factors that can affect variations in adult correctional expenditures across jurisdictions and over time. Included among these factors are differences in supervision requirements; the type and extent of programming available; the nature of caseloads (e.g., the number of higher supervision and remand cases); and the jurisdictional budgetary situation.

Most provinces and territories witnessed increases in corrections spending

Among the provinces in 2000/01, corrections expenditures ranged from \$25 per capita in Quebec and New Brunswick to \$60 in Saskatchewan (see Table 3). Among the territories, spending was \$242 per capita in Nunavut, \$270 per capita in Yukon, and \$383 per capita in the Northwest Territories.

The large majority of provinces and territories reported increases in spending in 2000/01. Nevertheless, a couple of jurisdictions witnessed declines.³⁸ After contract renegotiations resulted in decreased spending in New Brunswick during 1999/00, per capita constant dollar expenditures were up 16% in 2000/01. Manitoba and Quebec also reported noteworthy expenditure increases in 2000/01, with per capita constant dollar spending up 7% and 6% respectively, over 1999/00. In Ontario, Saskatchewan, Alberta, British Columbia and Yukon per capita constant dollar costs rose between 2% and 4%. Since 1999/00, per capita constant dollar spending in Prince Edward Island has varied little, while expenditures in Newfoundland and Labrador as well as Nova Scotia dropped 3% each from 1999/00 to 2000/01.

Data Sources

Adult Correctional Services (ACS) Survey

The Adult Correctional Services Survey is designed to collect information on adult offenders 18 years of age and over. The survey encompasses both institutional corrections and community corrections (offenders in the community on

³⁴ Because the data for youth corrections are based on estimates and are unavailable after 1998/99, no analysis will be presented.

³⁵ Average counts of inmates in custody or those under community supervision are a snapshot of the correctional population on any given day. These figures are then used to calculate annual average counts.

³⁶ Figures are based on data from the Adult Correctional Services (ACS) Survey. See Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics 2002a, Adult Correctional Services in Canada, 2000-2001.

³⁷ Since 2000/01 adult corrections expenditures for the Northwest Territories and Nunavut include expenses that were unavailable in 1999/00, year-over-year comparisons for total provincial/territorial expenditures exclude spending for these territories.

³⁸ It is not possible to present year-over-year spending trends in adult corrections for the Northwest Territories and Nunavut, as some expenditure figures included in 2000/01 were unavailable in 1999/00.

Box 6: Employment in selected sectors of the justice system

A sizeable portion of criminal justices expenditures are dedicated to the cost of salaries, wages and benefits paid to those who provide justice services and help to operate the justice system. In 2000/01, almost 127,000 people worked in policing, courts, legal aid, adult corrections and criminal prosecutions (see Table 4). Since 1998/99, the number of people working in the justice field has grown, including a 5% increase in 2000/01. This period of growth follows years of decline from the early to mid-1990s. (See Table 5 for information on justice system employees in the provinces and territories.)

Police³⁹

In 2000, there were 19,909 civilians employed in police services, down 1% from 1999 and 55,954 police officers in Canada, up 1% from 1999. On a per capita basis there were almost 182 police officers for every 100,000 Canadians in 2000. Since 1996, the number of civilian personnel moved upwards 2%, and the number of officers rose 3%. However, the number of police officers per 100,000 population dropped 1% between 1996 and 2000.

Courts

In 2000/01, there were 2,011 judiciary and 9,890 non-judiciary for a total of 11,901 court personnel. This represents a decline of less than 1% from 1998/99. However since 1996/97, the total number of court personnel has declined 3%.

Legal Aid

Nationally, legal aid personnel totalled 2,944, a 6% gain from 1999/00. The recent increase in legal aid employees follows five consecutive years of declines.

Criminal Prosecutions

From 1994/95 to 1998/99, the number of prosecution personnel went virtually unchanged. Then in 2000/01, the number of people employed in criminal prosecutions rose more than 15% over 1998/99, to 3,609.

Adult Corrections

Across Canada, there were 32,607 full-time employees in the adult correctional system in 2000/01, up 8% from the previous year. In 2000/01, the number of corrections workers was 18% higher than in 1996/97.

Sources: Flyter, Rebecca E. 2002. *Police Resources in Canada, 2001*. (Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 85-225-XIE). Ottawa: Minister responsible for Statistics Canada.

Snowball, Katie. 2002a. *Courts Personnel and Expenditures, 2000/01*. (Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 85-403-XIE). Ottawa: Minister responsible for Statistics Canada.

Snowball, Katie. 2002b. *Criminal Prosecutions Personnel and Expenditures, 2000/01*. (Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 85-402-XIE). Ottawa: Minister responsible for Statistics Canada.

Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics. 2002a. *Adult Correctional Services in Canada, 2000-2001*. (Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 85-211-XIE). Ottawa: Minister responsible for Statistics Canada.

Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics. 2002b. *Legal Aid in Canada: Resources and Caseload Statistics 2000-01*. (Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 85F0015XIE). Ottawa: Minister responsible for Statistics Canada.

³⁹ Police personnel are reported on a calendar-year basis. Personnel counts are based on permanent, full-time equivalents as of June 15, 2000. Part-time employees are converted to full-time equivalents. Temporary and auxiliary police and other volunteer personnel are excluded.

Box 7: Volunteering in justice-related organizations

Every year thousands of individuals offer their time and skills, volunteering in justice-related, non-profit organizations and groups. Justice sector volunteers may participate in agencies (including those in the government sector), that provide legal services, promote crime prevention and public safety, rehabilitate offenders, provide support and services for victims of crime and protect the rights of consumers.

According to the 2000 National Survey of Giving, Volunteering and Participating (NSGVP), more than 118,000 people in Canada volunteered over 13.3 million hours of their time in these types of law and legal service organizations, between October 1, 1999 and September 30, 2000. The number of volunteers in justice-related organizations dropped 9% since 1997, the last time the NSGVP was conducted. Of all Canadians who reported volunteering in the last year, justice-sector volunteers accounted for 2%. Despite fewer volunteers, the average number of hours volunteered rose from 82 hours/year in 1997 to 108 hours/year in 2000. In addition to time, more than 676,000 Canadians gave donations totalling \$17.9 million to law and legal service organizations during 2000. The average donation was about \$25.

Source: Statistics Canada, 2000 National Survey of Giving, Volunteering and Participating (NSGVP).

Statistics Canada, 1997 National Survey of Giving, Volunteering and Participating (NSGVP).

probation or some form of conditional release) in both the provincial/territorial and federal corrections sectors. Information is collected on the cost, resources, and personnel required to maintain the correctional system in Canada. Capital costs are not included. The survey is conducted annually.

Adult Criminal Court Survey (ACCS)

The purpose of the Adult Criminal Court Survey (ACCS) is to provide statistical information on the processing of cases through the adult criminal court system. The survey consists of a census of Criminal Code and other federal statute charges dealt with in provincial/territorial adult criminal courts. Some limitations on coverage of the survey should be noted. New Brunswick, Manitoba and British Columbia and Nunavut do not report to the survey at this time. The data do not include Northwest Territories for 1996/97 or 2000/01 and include two fiscal quarters of data for the territory in 1994/95 and three fiscal quarters of data in 1999/00. Also, information from Quebec's municipal courts (which account for approximately 20% of federal statute charges in that province) are not yet collected. Finally, with the exception of Prince Edward Island, Alberta and the Yukon, no data are provided from the superior courts.

Courts Resources, Expenditures and Personnel Survey

The Courts Resources, Expenditures and Personnel Survey provides administrative information on the Canadian court process and its costs. The survey collects aggregate expenditure and personnel information from all provinces and territories and the four federal jurisdictions, which are the Supreme Court of Canada, the Federal Court of Canada, the Tax Court of Canada and the Office of the Commissioner for Federal Judicial Affairs. This survey is conducted biennially.

Criminal Prosecutions Resources, Expenditures and Personnel Survey

The Criminal Prosecutions Resources, Expenditures and Personnel Survey provides information on personnel (e.g., lawyers, para-legals, management) and the costs (e.g., wages, training, operating expenditures) associated with the delivery of criminal prosecutions services in Canada. Data are collected from all provinces and from Justice Canada, which has responsibility for prosecution services in Yukon, the Northwest Territories and Nunavut, as well as prosecutions under federal statutes. In the case of Quebec, data on the delivery of prosecution services are not available for municipal courts. (It is estimated that 20% of federal statute charges in Quebec are heard in municipal courts). The survey, which began in 1994/95, is conducted biennially.

Financial Management System (FMS)

Statistics Canada's Financial Management System provides time series data on government spending. The FMS standardizes the presentation of government financial information and employs a consolidation process. In consolidation, intergovernmental transfers are eliminated so that an accurate picture of total government spending can be obtained.

The FMS monitors spending on three broad categories of justice services related to the protection of persons and property – policing, courts of law, and corrections and rehabilitation. It should be noted that the figures provided by the FMS are not equivalent to those produced by CCJS surveys due to differences in data sources, definitions, coverage and methodology.

Legal Aid Survey

The annual Legal Aid Survey has been in operation since 1984. Among other things, it measures expenditures and personnel associated with the delivery of legal aid services in Canada. Expenditures include money spent on the provision of legal services, e.g., staff salaries and benefits and private lawyers' fees and disbursements. Expenditures also include money spent on legal research activities and head office functions. Personnel include lawyers and non-lawyers who provide legal advice and/or representation directly to clients, plus other staff, such as accountants, librarians and clerical workers.

Police Administration Annual Survey

The Police Administration Annual Survey collects national statistics on personnel and expenditures from municipal, provincial and federal police services. Personnel counts are

based on permanent, full-time equivalents; part-time employees are converted to full-time equivalents (e.g., 4 employees each working 10 hours per week would equal 1 full-time employee). Expenditures are based on operating costs and include salaries and wages, benefits and other expenses such as accommodation costs. Capital costs are not included.

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Table 1

Spending on Justice Services, 1994/95 to 2000/01

| | 1994/95 | | 1995/96 | | 1996/97 | | 1997/98 | | 1998/99 | | 1999/00 | | 2000/01 | |
|--|-----------------|------------|-----------------|------------|-----------------|------------|-----------------|------------|-----------------|------------|-----------------|------------|-----------------|------------|
| | Total | Per capita | Total | Per capita | Total | Per capita | Total | Per capita | Total | Per capita | Total | Per capita | Total | Per capita |
| Population (000s)¹ | 29,036.0 | | 29,353.9 | | 29,671.9 | | 29,987.2 | | 30,248.2 | | 30,499.2 | | 30,769.7 | |
| CPI (1992=100)² | 102.0 | | 104.2 | | 105.9 | | 107.6 | | 108.6 | | 110.5 | | 113.5 | |
| | millions \$ | | \$ millions \$ | | \$ millions \$ | | \$ millions \$ | | \$ millions \$ | | \$ millions \$ | | \$ millions \$ | \$ |
| Spending in current \$ | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Police | 5,784 | 199 | 5,809 | 198 | 5,856 | 197 | 5,989 | 200 | 6,210 | 205 | 6,394 | 210 | 6,801 | 221 |
| Courts ³ | 838 | 29 | 848 | 29 | 859 | 29 | 907 | 30 | 955 | 32 | 997 | 33 | 1,039 | 34 |
| Legal Aid Plans ⁴ | 646 | 22 | 622 | 21 | 536 | 18 | 455 | 15 | 494 | 16 | 487 | 16 | 512 | 17 |
| Adult Corrections | 1,894 | 65 | 1,919 | 65 | 1,969 | 66 | 2,077 | 69 | 2,200 | 73 | 2,365 | 78 | 2,454 | 80 |
| Prosecutions ³ | 257 | 9 | 261 | 9 | 265 | 9 | 271 | 9 | 278 | 9 | 307 | 10 | 335 | 11 |
| Sub-total | 9,419 | 324 | 9,459 | 322 | 9,484 | 320 | 9,700 | 323 | 10,138 | 335 | 10,550 | 346 | 11,141 | 362 |
| Youth Corrections ⁵ | 526 | 18 | 508 | 17 | 513 | 17 | 499 | 17 | 498 | 16 | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| Total | 9,944 | 342 | 9,967 | 340 | 9,998 | 337 | 10,199 | 340 | 10,636 | 352 | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| Spending in constant 1992\$² | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Police | 5,670 | 195 | 5,574 | 190 | 5,530 | 186 | 5,566 | 186 | 5,718 | 189 | 5,787 | 190 | 5,992 | 195 |
| Courts ³ | 821 | 28 | 814 | 28 | 811 | 27 | 843 | 28 | 880 | 29 | 902 | 30 | 915 | 30 |
| Legal Aid Plans ⁴ | 634 | 22 | 597 | 20 | 506 | 17 | 423 | 14 | 455 | 15 | 441 | 14 | 451 | 15 |
| Adult Corrections | 1,856 | 64 | 1,842 | 63 | 1,859 | 63 | 1,931 | 64 | 2,026 | 67 | 2,140 | 70 | 2,162 | 70 |
| Prosecutions ³ | 252 | 9 | 250 | 9 | 250 | 8 | 252 | 8 | 256 | 8 | 278 | 9 | 295 | 10 |
| Sub-total | 9,234 | 318 | 9,078 | 309 | 8,956 | 302 | 9,015 | 301 | 9,335 | 309 | 9,548 | 313 | 9,815 | 319 |
| Youth Corrections ⁵ | 515 | 18 | 488 | 17 | 485 | 16 | 464 | 15 | 458 | 15 | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| Total | 9,749 | 336 | 9,565 | 326 | 9,441 | 318 | 9,479 | 316 | 9,793 | 324 | .. | .. | .. | .. |

.. figures not available for specific reference period

... figures not applicable

¹ The population estimates used to calculate per capita figures are provided by Statistics Canada, Census and Demographic Statistics, Demography Division. Populations as of July 1, 2001: final intercensal estimates for 1992 to 1995; final postcensal estimates for 1996 to 1997; updated postcensal estimates for 1998 to 2000; and preliminary postcensal estimates for 2001.

² In order to create constant dollar figures with the effects of inflation removed, figures were converted to a base of 1992=100 using Statistics Canada's Consumer Price Index (CPI).

³ In order to make annual comparisons, court expenditures for 1993/94, 1995/96, 1997/98 and 1999/00 have been estimated based on the average between the reporting years preceding and following the reference period. Prosecutions expenditures for 1995/96, 1997/98 and 1999/00 were estimated in a similar manner.

⁴ These expenditures represent spending by legal aid plans only and may not equal government contributions to legal aid plans in a given year.

⁵ Youth corrections costs are estimates. The figures likely underestimate total costs.

Sources: Young Offenders Cost-Sharing Agreements, Justice Canada. Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics; Police Administration Annual Survey; Courts Resources, Expenditures and Personnel Survey; Criminal Prosecutions Resources, Expenditures and Personnel Survey; Legal Aid Survey; and Adult Correctional Services Survey.

Table 2



Spending on Justice Services in the Provinces and Territories,¹ 1996/97, 1998/99 and 2000/01

| | 1996/97 | | 1998/99 | | 2000/01 | | 1996/97 to 2000/01 % change in constant \$ | 1998/99 to 2000/01 % change in constant \$ |
|--|----------------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------|---|---|
| | Per capita spending ² | | Per capita spending ² | | Per capita spending ² | | | |
| | current \$ | constant \$ ³ | current \$ | constant \$ ³ | current \$ | constant \$ ³ | | |
| Newfoundland and Labrador ⁴ | 165 | 156 | 168 | 155 | 186 | 164 | 5.4 | 6.1 |
| Prince Edward Island | 180 | 171 | 182 | 172 | 196 | 175 | 2.3 | 2.1 |
| Nova Scotia | 197 | 186 | 210 | 194 | 224 | 196 | 5.1 | 1.3 |
| New Brunswick | 181 | 172 | 184 | 171 | 198 | 175 | 1.8 | 2.5 |
| Quebec | 243 | 235 | 248 | 233 | 260 | 235 | -0.1 | 0.8 |
| Ontario | 264 | 249 | 273 | 250 | 298 | 261 | 4.8 | 4.4 |
| Manitoba | 236 | 216 | 253 | 224 | 284 | 241 | 11.2 | 7.3 |
| Saskatchewan | 231 | 212 | 252 | 226 | 278 | 238 | 12.3 | 5.4 |
| Alberta | 202 | 188 | 212 | 192 | 240 | 204 | 8.4 | 6.5 |
| British Columbia | 240 | 221 | 244 | 222 | 269 | 237 | 7.5 | 7.1 |
| Yukon | 670 | 623 | 730 | 658 | 802 | 700 | 12.3 | 6.4 |
| Northwest Territories ⁵ | 857 | 792 | 839 | 776 | 1,106 | 994 | 25.6 | 28.2 |
| Nunavut ⁶ | ... | ... | ... | ... | 890 | 800 | ... | ... |
| Total | 243 | 230 | 251 | 231 | 273 | 241 | 4.8 | 4.1 |

.. figures not available for specific reference period

... figures not applicable

¹ Includes spending on policing, courts, legal aid plans, adult corrections and prosecutions as described in Table 1.

² The population estimates used to calculate per capita figures are provided by Statistics Canada, Census and Demographic Statistics, Demography Division. Populations as of July 1, 2001: final postcensal estimates for 1996 to 1997; updated postcensal estimates for 1998 to 2000; and preliminary postcensal estimates for 2001.

³ In order to create constant dollar figures with the effects of inflation removed, figures were converted to a base of 1992=100 using Statistics Canada's Consumer Price Index.

⁴ Does not include legal aid plan expenditures.

⁵ In 2000/01, total expenditures for the Northwest Territories reflect notable increases in spending on courts and adult corrections. There was a marked increase in the cost of benefits paid to court personnel and revisions were made to the methods used to calculate court staff benefits. In addition, 2000/01 adult corrections costs for the Northwest Territories include expenses not available in 1998/99 and 1999/00. Consequently, caution should be exercised when comparing total expenditures from 1998/99 to those from 2000/01 for this jurisdiction.

⁶ Nunavut officially became a Canadian territory April 1, 1999. Prior to this time it was part of the Northwest Territories.

Sources: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics: Police Administration Annual Survey; Courts Resources, Expenditures and Personnel Survey; Criminal Prosecutions Resources, Expenditures and Personnel Survey; Legal Aid Survey; and Adult Correctional Services Survey.

Table 3

Spending on Justice Services in the Provinces and Territories, by Sector, 1999/00 and 2000/01

| | Police ¹ | | Courts ² | | Legal Aid Plans ³ | | Prosecutions ⁴ | | Adult Corrections ⁵ | | Population ⁶ 000s | CPI ⁷ 1992=100 |
|------------------------------------|---------------------|-------------|---------------------|-------------|------------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|-------------|--------------------------------|-------------|---------------------------------|------------------------------|
| | Per capita spending | | Per capita spending | | Per capita spending | | Per capita spending | | Per capita spending | | | |
| | current \$ | constant \$ | current \$ | constant \$ | current \$ | constant \$ | current \$ | constant \$ | current \$ | constant \$ | | |
| 1999/00 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Newfoundland and Labrador | 105 | 95 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 39 | 35 | 540.7 | 110.0 |
| Prince Edward Island | 107 | 100 | .. | .. | 5 | 5 | .. | .. | 40 | 37 | 137.6 | 107.3 |
| Nova Scotia | 126 | 114 | .. | .. | 12 | 11 | .. | .. | 27 | 25 | 939.7 | 110.3 |
| New Brunswick | 124 | 113 | .. | .. | 5 | 5 | .. | .. | 21 | 20 | 754.4 | 109.2 |
| Quebec | 187 | 173 | .. | .. | 14 | 13 | .. | .. | 23 | 21 | 7,349.7 | 108.0 |
| Ontario | 188 | 169 | .. | .. | 19 | 17 | .. | .. | 40 | 36 | 11,522.7 | 111.0 |
| Manitoba | 159 | 138 | .. | .. | 15 | 13 | .. | .. | 49 | 42 | 1,142.4 | 115.2 |
| Saskatchewan | 148 | 130 | .. | .. | 10 | 9 | .. | .. | 57 | 50 | 1,025.5 | 113.7 |
| Alberta ⁸ | 145 | 128 | .. | .. | 9 | 8 | .. | .. | 28 | 24 | 2,959.5 | 113.4 |
| British Columbia | 136 | 122 | .. | .. | 21 | 19 | .. | .. | 43 | 39 | 4,028.1 | 111.2 |
| Yukon | 311 | 277 | .. | .. | 40 | 36 | .. | .. | 259 | 231 | 31.0 | 112.1 |
| Northwest Territories ⁹ | 427 | 391 | .. | .. | 91 | 83 | .. | .. | 257 | 235 | 41.0 | 109.3 |
| Nunavut ¹⁰ | 413 | 378 | .. | .. | 99 | 90 | .. | .. | 127 | 116 | 26.9 | 109.3 |
| Total | 169 | 153 | ... | ... | 16 | 14 | ... | ... | 36 | 32 | 30,499.2 | 110.5 |
| 2000/01 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Newfoundland and Labrador | 112 | 99 | 28 | 24 | .. | .. | 7 | 6 | 39 | 34 | 537.2 | 113.3 |
| Prince Edward Island | 113 | 101 | 30 | 27 | 5 | 5 | 6 | 5 | 42 | 37 | 138.1 | 111.7 |
| Nova Scotia | 131 | 115 | 43 | 37 | 12 | 10 | 11 | 10 | 27 | 24 | 941.2 | 114.2 |
| New Brunswick | 130 | 115 | 29 | 26 | 5 | 5 | 7 | 6 | 25 | 23 | 755.3 | 112.8 |
| Quebec | 193 | 175 | 22 | 20 | 14 | 13 | 5 | 5 | 25 | 23 | 7,377.7 | 110.6 |
| Ontario | 197 | 172 | 28 | 25 | 21 | 18 | 9 | 8 | 43 | 38 | 11,685.3 | 114.2 |
| Manitoba | 166 | 141 | 39 | 33 | 16 | 13 | 10 | 9 | 53 | 45 | 1,146.0 | 118.1 |
| Saskatchewan | 158 | 135 | 40 | 34 | 11 | 9 | 10 | 8 | 60 | 51 | 1,022.0 | 116.7 |
| Alberta ⁸ | 151 | 129 | 41 | 35 | 9 | 8 | 9 | 8 | 29 | 25 | 3,009.2 | 117.4 |
| British Columbia | 150 | 132 | 36 | 32 | 22 | 19 | 15 | 14 | 46 | 40 | 4,058.8 | 113.3 |
| Yukon | 333 | 290 | 165 | 144 | 34 | 29 | .. | .. | 270 | 236 | 30.6 | 114.6 |
| Northwest Territories ⁹ | 449 | 403 | 188 | 169 | 86 | 77 | .. | .. | 383 | 344 | 40.9 | 111.2 |
| Nunavut ¹⁰ | 480 | 431 | 65 | 58 | 104 | 93 | .. | .. | 242 | 218 | 27.4 | 111.2 |
| Total | 178 | 157 | 31 | 27 | 17 | 15 | 9 | 8 | 38 | 34 | 30,769.7 | 113.5 |

.. figures not available for specific reference period

... figures not applicable

¹ Excludes federal spending on the RCMP. Also, provincial/territorial expenditures on RCMP contracts reflect only the cost billed to the province/territory or municipality and not the total cost of the contract or any additional policing costs. Remaining RCMP contract costs are included among the federal expenditures.

² Courts data are collected biennially and are therefore, unavailable for 1999/00. Includes salaries, benefits, allowances and annuities paid to federally appointed judges presiding over provincial/territorial appeal and superior courts (Section 96 judges). These costs are paid by the Office of the Commissioner for Federal Judicial Affairs (OCFJA) but are entered under the jurisdiction rather than the OCFJA. Excludes spending on federal courts and administrative costs for the OCFJA.

³ These expenditures represent spending by legal aid plans only and may not equal government contributions to legal aid plans in a given year.

⁴ Prosecutions data are collected biennially, and are therefore unavailable for 1999/00. Excludes Justice Canada spending, including prosecution costs for Yukon, Northwest Territories and Nunavut. Also excludes prosecution costs for Quebec municipal courts estimated to represent 20% of the Quebec workload. Expenditures for Ad hoc/per diem lawyers in Newfoundland are excluded.

⁵ Excludes spending on federal corrections.

⁶ The population estimates used to calculate per capita figures are provided by Statistics Canada, Census and Demographic Statistics, Demography Division. Populations as of July 1, 2001: updated postcensal estimates for 1998 to 2000; and preliminary postcensal estimates for 2001.

⁷ In order to create constant dollar figures with the effects of inflation removed, figures were converted to a base of 1992=100 using Statistics Canada's Consumer Price Index.

⁸ Court expenditures for Alberta in 2000/01 include retroactive benefits and one-time compensation pay-outs along with costs associated with the purchase of telecommunications equipment and the development a criminal tracking system. Together these costs represent 16% of total spending in that province.

⁹ Court expenditures for the Northwest Territories in 2000/01 include a \$500,000 payment to the judiciary pension plan and reflect revisions in the methods used to calculate court staff benefits. Also, it is not possible to make year-over-year comparisons of spending on adult corrections in the Northwest Territories, as some spending sources were unavailable in 1999/00.

¹⁰ Although Nunavut officially became a Canadian territory April 1, 1999, Northwest Territories Legal Aid Services Board remained the provider of Legal Aid Services in Nunavut until June 30, 2000. It is not possible to make year-over-year comparisons of spending on adult corrections in Nunavut, as some spending sources were unavailable in 1999/00.

Sources: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics: Police Administration Annual Survey; Courts Resources, Expenditures and Personnel Survey; Criminal Prosecutions Resources, Expenditures and Personnel Survey; Legal Aid Survey; and Adult Correctional Services Survey.

Table 4

Employees of the Justice System,¹ 1994/95 to 2000/01

| | 1994/95 | | 1995/96 | | 1996/97 | | 1997/98 | | 1998/99 | | 1999/00 | | 2000/01 | |
|------------------------------------|----------------|-------------------------------------|----------------|-------------------------------------|----------------|-------------------------------------|----------------|-------------------------------------|----------------|-------------------------------------|----------------|-------------------------------------|----------------|-------------------------------------|
| | Total | Per 100,000 population ² | Total | Per 100,000 population ² | Total | Per 100,000 population ² | Total | Per 100,000 population ² | Total | Per 100,000 population ² | Total | Per 100,000 population ² | Total | Per 100,000 population ² |
| Police | 75,351 | 260 | 74,267 | 253 | 73,926 | 249 | 74,398 | 248 | 74,146 | 245 | 75,489 | 248 | 75,863 | 247 |
| Officers | 55,859 | 192 | 55,008 | 187 | 54,323 | 183 | 54,719 | 182 | 54,763 | 181 | 55,321 | 181 | 55,954 | 182 |
| Civilians | 19,492 | 67 | 19,259 | 66 | 19,603 | 66 | 19,679 | 66 | 19,383 | 64 | 20,168 | 66 | 19,909 | 65 |
| Courts³ | 12,074 | 42 | 12,172 | 41 | 12,270 | 41 | 12,102 | 40 | 11,934 | 39 | 11,918 | 39 | 11,901 | 39 |
| Judiciary | 1,935 | 7 | .. | .. | 1,969 | 7 | .. | .. | 1,994 | 7 | .. | .. | 2,011 | 7 |
| Non-Judiciary | 10,139 | 35 | .. | .. | 10,301 | 35 | .. | .. | 9,940 | 33 | .. | .. | 9,890 | 32 |
| Legal Aid Plans⁴ | 3,023 | 10 | 2,960 | 10 | 2,932 | 10 | 2,870 | 10 | 2,784 | 9 | 2,772 | 9 | 2,944 | 10 |
| Lawyers | 1,034 | 4 | 1,038 | 4 | 1,040 | 4 | 1,005 | 3 | 1,008 | 3 | 972 | 3 | 1,030 | 3 |
| Non-lawyers | 1,989 | 7 | 1,922 | 7 | 1,892 | 6 | 1,865 | 6 | 1,776 | 6 | 1,800 | 6 | 1,914 | 6 |
| Adult Corrections | 27,103 | 93 | 28,577 | 97 | 27,675 | 93 | 27,475 | 92 | 29,087 | 96 | 30,290 | 99 | 32,607 | 107 |
| Custodial | 22,099 | 76 | 23,330 | 79 | 22,626 | 76 | 22,285 | 74 | 23,262 | 77 | 24,017 | 79 | 25,666 | 84 |
| Non-Custodial | 3,154 | 11 | 3,338 | 11 | 3,014 | 10 | 3,069 | 10 | 3,303 | 11 | 3,455 | 11 | 3,727 | 12 |
| Headquarters | 1,394 | 5 | 1,505 | 5 | 1,638 | 6 | 1,710 | 6 | 2,198 | 7 | 2,330 | 8 | 2,698 | 9 |
| Parole Boards | 456 | 2 | 404 | 1 | 397 | 1 | 411 | 1 | 324 | 1 | 488 | 2 | 516 | 2 |
| Prosecutions³ | 3,199 | 11 | 3,165 | 11 | 3,130 | 11 | 3,131 | 10 | 3,131 | 10 | 3,370 | 11 | 3,609 | 12 |
| Staff Lawyers | 1,825 | 6 | .. | .. | 1,825 | 6 | .. | .. | 1,868 | 6 | .. | .. | 2,161 | 7 |
| Prosecutorial Support | 207 | 1 | .. | .. | 150 | 1 | .. | .. | 149 | 0 | .. | .. | 166 | 1 |
| Other Personnel | 1,167 | 4 | .. | .. | 1,155 | 4 | .. | .. | 1,115 | 4 | .. | .. | 1,282 | 4 |
| Total¹ | 120,750 | 416 | 121,141 | 413 | 119,933 | 404 | 119,976 | 400 | 121,082 | 400 | 123,839 | 406 | 126,924 | 412 |

.. figures not available for specific reference period

... figures not applicable

¹ Excludes youth corrections. All personnel figures are as of March 31, except for police personnel. Police personnel counts are as of June 15. Except for legal aid personnel, all counts are based on full-time equivalents. Legal aid plan figures represent the actual number of employees as of March 31.² The population estimates used to calculate per capita figures are provided by Statistics Canada, Census and Demographic Statistics, Demography Division. Populations as of July 1, 2001: final intercensal estimates for 1992 to 1995; final postcensal estimates for 1996 to 1997; updated postcensal estimates for 1998 to 2000; and preliminary postcensal estimates for 2001.³ In order to make annual comparisons, the number of court employees for 1993/94, 1995/96, 1997/98, and 1999/00 has been estimated based on the average between the reporting years preceding and following the reference period. Prosecutions personnel for 1995/96, 1997/98 and 1999/00 were estimated in a similar manner. Other personnel includes Ad hoc/per diem lawyers.⁴ Does not include the number of private lawyers who provided legal aid services.**Sources:** Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics: Police Administration Annual Survey; Courts Resources, Expenditures and Personnel Survey; Criminal Prosecutions Resources, Expenditures and Personnel Survey; Legal Aid Survey; and Adult Correctional Services Survey.

Table 5

Justice System Employees in the Provinces and Territories, by Sector,¹ 2000/01

| | Police ² | | Courts ³ | | Legal Aid Plans ⁴ | | Adult Corrections ⁵ | | Prosecutions ⁶ | |
|---------------------------|---------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------|-------------------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| | Total | Per 100,000 population ⁷ | Total | Per 100,000 population ⁷ | Total | Per 100,000 population ⁷ | Total | Per 100,000 population ⁷ | Total | Per 100,000 population ⁷ |
| Newfoundland and Labrador | 772 | 144 | 202 | 38 | .. | .. | 294 | 54 | 49 | 9 |
| Prince Edward Island | 205 | 148 | 53 | 38 | 7 | 5 | 110 | 80 | 13 | 9 |
| Nova Scotia | 1,600 | 170 | 594 | 63 | 125 | 13 | 338 | 36 | 129 | 14 |
| New Brunswick | 1,306 | 173 | 292 | 39 | 41 | 5 | 359 | 48 | 63 | 8 |
| Quebec | 13,835 | 188 | 2262 | 31 | 836 | 11 | 2,688 | 37 | 548 | 7 |
| Ontario | 21,637 | 185 | 3380 | 29 | 1135 | 10 | 6,695 | 58 | 1157 | 10 |
| Manitoba | 2,142 | 187 | 589 | 51 | 141 | 12 | 1,015 | 89 | 142 | 12 |
| Saskatchewan | 1,864 | 182 | 398 | 39 | 135 | 13 | 884 | 86 | 134 | 13 |
| Alberta | 4,613 | 153 | 1316 | 44 | 132 | 4 | 1,380 | 47 | 296 | 10 |
| British Columbia | 6,645 | 164 | 1861 | 46 | 325 | 8 | 2,360 | 59 | 641 | 16 |
| Yukon | 120 | 392 | 45 | 147 | 10 | 33 | 87 | 280 | .. | .. |
| Northwest Territories | 154 | 376 | 58 | 142 | 25 | 61 | 156 | 380 | .. | .. |
| Nunavut ⁸ | 86 | 314 | 21 | 77 | 32 | 117 | 48 | 179 | .. | .. |
| Total | 54,979 | 179 | 11,071 | 36 | 2,944 | 10 | 16,414 | 54 | 3,172 | 10 |

.. figures not available

¹ All personnel figures are as of March 31, except for police personnel. Police personnel counts are as of June 15. Except for legal aid personnel, all counts are based on full-time equivalents. Legal aid plan figures represent the actual number of employees as of March 31.

² Includes municipal, provincial and RCMP police officers, except those at RCMP Headquarters and Training Academy. Civilian employees are excluded.

³ Court personnel figures for Nova Scotia and Manitoba are estimates.

⁴ Does not include the number of private lawyers who provided legal aid services.

⁵ Excludes employees working in federal corrections.

⁶ Excludes Justice Canada personnel, including those responsible for prosecution services in Yukon, Northwest Territories and Nunavut. Quebec figures exclude criminal prosecution personnel in municipal courts.

⁷ The population estimates used to calculate per capita figures are provided by Statistics Canada, Census and Demographic Statistics, Demography Division. Populations as of July 1st: updated postcensal estimates for 1998 to 2000; and preliminary postcensal estimates for 2001.

⁸ Although Nunavut officially became a Canadian territory April 1, 1999, Northwest Territories Legal Aid Services Board remained the provider of Legal Aid Services in Nunavut until June 30, 2000.

Sources: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics: Police Administration Annual Survey; Courts Resources, Expenditures and Personnel Survey; Criminal Prosecutions Resources, Expenditures and Personnel Survey; Legal Aid Survey; and Adult Correctional Services Survey.

Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics

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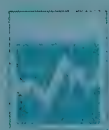
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MOTOR VEHICLE THEFT IN CANADA—2001

By Marnie Wallace

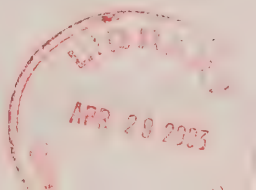
HIGHLIGHTS

- The rate of motor vehicle thefts increased in 2001 (+5%) for the first time in five years, and now stands 10% higher than a decade ago.
- The national increase in motor vehicle thefts over the past decade was led by sharp increases in specific geographic areas, which could not be offset by the moderate decreases reported elsewhere in the country. Since 1991, motor vehicle theft rates have doubled in London and Hamilton, tripled in Regina, and more than quadrupled in Winnipeg, resulting in a large increase in theft rates in Manitoba and Saskatchewan in particular.
- Canada ranked fifth highest of seventeen countries for risk of car theft in the 1999 International Crime Victimization Survey. Canada shared its fifth place ranking with Sweden, with 1.6% of the population being a victim of car theft.
- While cars remain the most commonly stolen vehicle, the rate of trucks, including sport utility vehicles, being stolen is growing quickly with an increase of 59% over the past decade.
- Parking lots are the most common location from which motor vehicle thefts occur, followed by streets, and single homes, including garages and driveways. Together these locations account for 87% of all motor vehicle thefts.
- Nearly one quarter of all vehicles stolen in 2001 were never recovered. Vehicles that are not recovered are often connected to organized theft rings that steal vehicles for resale, either in Canada or abroad, or for parts.
- Motor vehicle thefts are characterized by relatively low clearance rates. In 2001, 13% of all vehicle theft incidents were "solved" by police, which is similar to other property crimes such as break-ins which had a clearance rate of 16%.
- The rate of youths 12 to 17 years of age charged with motor vehicle theft increased in 2001 for the second consecutive year, though the rate remained 35% lower than a decade ago. Youths account for 42% of all persons charged with this crime.
- The rate of thefts from motor vehicles increased (+1.3%) for the first time in ten years in 2001. Audio equipment was the item most likely to be stolen from inside a motor vehicle.



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INTRODUCTION

Thousands of Canadians are forced to deal with motor vehicle theft each year. Often, vehicles are stolen out of the relative safety of the owner's own driveway. Stolen vehicles can become involved in police chases that may end in injury or even death. The loss, damage, and danger connected to motor vehicle theft has raised the concern of Canadians, and led to the creation of numerous police and public anti-auto theft task forces and action groups across the country.

Each year motor vehicle thefts cost Canadians approximately \$1 billion: \$600 million in insurance premiums, \$250 million in police, health care and court systems costs, and further millions of dollars in correctional services expenses (Insurance Bureau of Canada, 2002).

This *Juristat* provides a profile of motor vehicle theft in Canada, including trends over the past decade, characteristics of thefts, and of persons accused of motor vehicle theft. The report also examines international data, methods and prevalence of organized crime in Canadian auto theft, and recent auto theft prevention programs and strategies.

Motor vehicle theft consists of taking, or attempting to take, a vehicle without the owner's authorization. A motor vehicle is defined as a car, truck, van, bus, recreational vehicle, semi-trailer truck, motorcycle, construction machinery, agricultural machinery or other land-based motorized vehicle such as an all-terrain vehicle, a go-kart, a dune buggy or a snowmobile.

TRENDS IN MOTOR VEHICLE THEFT

First rise in motor vehicle theft in five years

There were 170,213 motor vehicle thefts reported to police in Canada in 2001, translating to a rate of 548 thefts per 100,000 population. The rate of motor vehicle thefts increased in 2001 (+5%) for the first time in five years (Table 1 and Figure 1).

Since 1991, the rate of all other property crimes in Canada has decreased 38%, yet motor vehicle thefts have risen by 10% over the same time period. In 1991 motor vehicle theft accounted for 8% of all property crimes. By 2001 that portion had risen to 14%.

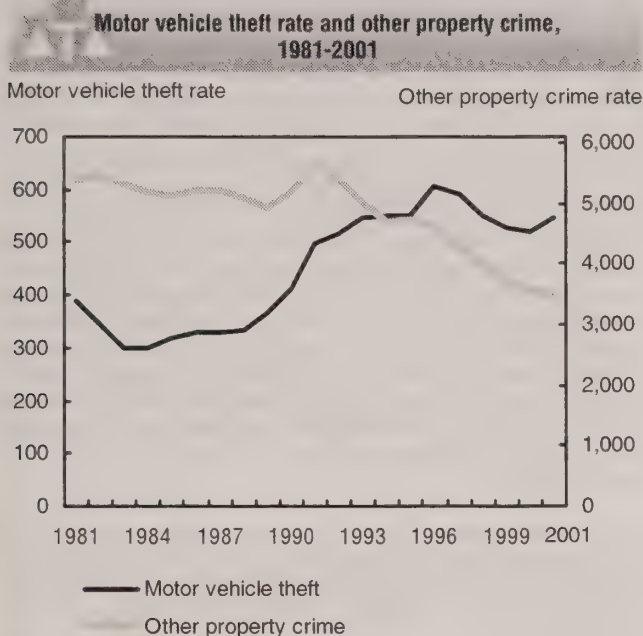
The national increase in motor vehicle thefts over the past decade was led by sharp increases in highly concentrated geographic areas, which could not be offset by the moderate decreases reported elsewhere in the country. Over the past ten years, motor vehicle theft rates have doubled in London and Hamilton, tripled in Regina, and more than quadrupled in Winnipeg, resulting in a large increase in theft rates in Manitoba and Saskatchewan in particular (Table 2 and Table 3).

Manitoba has highest theft rate for fifth year in a row

Provincially, rates ranged from 119 per 100,000 population in Newfoundland and Labrador to 1,148 in Manitoba (Table 2 and Figure 2). Newfoundland and Labrador has exhibited the lowest rate of motor vehicle thefts in the country for more than twenty years. The highest rate has occurred in Manitoba for eight of the last ten years. This is primarily due to the high rates of motor vehicle theft in Winnipeg.

Rate per 100,000 Population – The previous *Juristat* concerning motor vehicle theft in Canada, written in 1996, utilized the number of registered motor vehicles to calculate a rate of thefts per 100,000 registered vehicles. However, in 1999 changes were made to the annual Survey of Road Motor Vehicle Registrations, making data prior to 1999 incomparable to data in the years that followed. As this eliminated the possibility of long term data analysis, this *Juristat* has returned to rates of motor vehicle thefts calculated per 100,000 population.

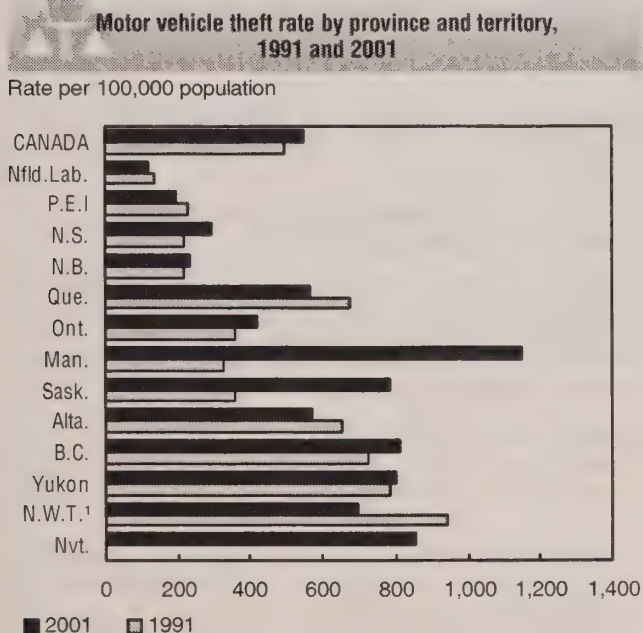
Figure 1



Note: Rates are per 100,000 population.

Source: UCR Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics.

Figure 2



¹ Nunavut officially came into being as a Territory of Canada on April 1, 1999. For 1991 the figures used include Nunavut as defined before April 1, 1999.

Source: UCR Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics.

Seven provinces experienced increases in rates of motor vehicle thefts in 2001. The largest increase (+23%) was seen in Prince Edward Island. However, even with this increase, the rate of motor vehicle thefts in PEI was second lowest in the country. Other large increases were reported in Alberta and British Columbia, at 15% and 13% respectively. The three provinces showing a decline in the rate of motor vehicle thefts in 2001 were Nova Scotia (-4%), Québec (-1%) and Newfoundland and Labrador (-1%).

Winnipeg records highest rate among nine largest metropolitan areas

Of the nine largest census metropolitan areas¹ Winnipeg had the highest rate of motor vehicle thefts, at 1,581 per 100,000 population (Table 3). Vancouver's rate (1,149) was also well above the national rate. Only three census metropolitan areas reported rates lower than the national average in 2001. These were Ottawa (488), Toronto (370) and Quebec (290).

The largest decrease (-12%) was reported in Ottawa. The only other decreases were seen in Montreal (-3%) and Calgary (-1%). The largest increase occurred in Edmonton, with a rate 39% higher than one year ago. This CMA however, has seen a decrease (-9%) in the rate of motor vehicle thefts over the past decade.

When looking at all 25 census metropolitan areas across the country, rates ranged from a low of 183 motor vehicle thefts per 100,000 population in St. John's to a high of 1,996 in Regina. Winnipeg's rate of 1,581 was the second highest. The high rates of theft in these two areas can be attributed to high incidences of youth offending. In Winnipeg in particular, a pattern has formed in which youth who began offending for the purpose of joyriding in the mid 1990s remain active, and have since been joined by younger offenders as well². Victoria reported a 55% increase in the rate of motor vehicle thefts in 2001, but the rate remains only 6% higher than it was ten years ago.

The wide variation in rates among Canadian cities can be explained by a number of factors. Location may render a city more susceptible to motor vehicle theft. For instance, port cities such as Vancouver may have high rates of theft because of the ease with which vehicles can quickly be exported out of the country after being stolen. Other factors that may make a city more or less vulnerable to motor vehicle theft include police and community reaction to crime, or current social and economic conditions within the city.

Taking all CMAs together, 2001 saw a 4% increase in the rate of motor vehicle thefts over the previous year and a 6% increase over a decade ago.

Surrey has highest theft rate of all 7 forces in the Vancouver CMA

In many instances, a single CMA will comprise a number of individual police forces. A closer examination of police forces

¹ A census metropolitan area (CMA) is a large urban core (over 100,000 population) together with adjacent urban and rural areas that have a high degree of economic and social integration.

² Winnipeg Police Service's stolen auto unit.

can give a more detailed picture of where motor vehicle thefts are occurring in Canada (Table 3b). For example, seven separate forces police the Vancouver CMA, and result in a combined rate of motor vehicle theft of 1,149 per 100,000 population. However, when the CMA is broken down by police service the rates range from a low of 450 in Delta to a high of 2,033 in Surrey. Similarly, the Toronto CMA's low rate of motor vehicle theft (370) is a result of a higher rate within the boundaries of Metro Toronto (438), and lower rates from the York Regional (335) and Peel Regional (250) police services.

Canada ranks fifth highest of 17 countries for risk of car theft

In 1999, Canada's General Social Survey (GSS) focused on victimization and public perceptions of crime and the justice system. The previous GSS on Victimization had been conducted in 1993. In 1999, telephone interviews were conducted with approximately 26,000 people, aged 15 and over, living in the 10 provinces. Those respondents who had been a victim of a crime in the previous 12 months were asked for detailed information on each incident. Between 1993 and 1999 the GSS estimated an increase in motor vehicle theft, however the results were not statistically significant.

A number of recent reports have compared crime rates across various countries. Seventeen industrialized countries took part in the 1999 International Crime Victimization Survey (ICVS), which measured victimization in relation to 11 different offences³. The survey measured car theft and motorcycle theft separately which ranked first and fourth, respectively, as the most serious offences as ranked by victims (Besserer, 2001). Car and motorcycle theft had the highest rates of reporting to police of all eleven offences.

International Victimization

Percentage of population that was a victim of car theft in 1999

| Country | Percent |
|------------------|---------|
| England & Wales | 2.6 |
| Australia | 2.1 |
| France | 1.9 |
| Poland | 1.7 |
| Canada | 1.6 |
| Sweden | 1.6 |
| Northern Ireland | 1.5 |
| Denmark | 1.4 |
| Portugal | 1.2 |
| Scotland | 1.0 |
| Belgium | 0.8 |
| Finland | 0.5 |
| Netherlands | 0.5 |
| Spain | 0.5 |
| U.S.A | 0.5 |
| Switzerland | 0.4 |
| Japan | 0.1 |

Source: Criminal Victimization in 17 Industrialised Countries: Key Findings from the 2000 International Crime Victims Survey. (Wetenschappelijk onderzoek- en Documentatiecentrum, The Netherlands).

The ICVS ranks participating countries according to the percentage of the population that has been a victim of a certain crime in the reference year. The table of International Victimization shows the risk of being a victim of car theft in all 17 participating countries. Canada ranked fifth highest, along with Sweden, with 1.6% of the population being a victim of car theft in 1999. England and Wales ranked highest, while Japan was lowest.

Canada follows international trends

Police reported data can also be compared across countries. The Home Office in Britain has produced an annual bulletin since 1993 which compares police reported data for a number of offences across 39 different countries. The report uses data supplied by statistical contacts in each country. Most recently, data were released concerning the period from 1996 to 2000. While definitions of offences vary between countries and make absolute comparisons between the recorded crime levels in different countries misleading, comparisons of trends are still possible (Table 4).

Over the years 1996 to 2000, 14 countries reported decreases in the number of motor vehicle thefts reported to police. Canada had the eleventh largest decline, at 11%. Increases over that four-year period were seen in 17 countries, with the largest in Austria (+49%).

A comparison of Canada's motor vehicle theft rate to that of the United States, shows that Canada's rate surpassed the U.S. rate in 1996, and has remained higher in the years that followed (Gannon, 2001). In 2000 the Canadian rate was 26% higher than the American rate⁴. Preliminary data for 2001 indicate that, as in Canada, the American rate of motor vehicle theft also increased (U.S. Department of Justice, 2002).

CHARACTERISTICS OF MOTOR VEHICLE THEFT

One in six motor vehicle thefts occur from driveways and garages

Parking lots were the most popular location for motor vehicle thefts in Canada in 2001, accounting for 41% of all thefts. The next most popular location was streets (30%), while a further 16% of motor vehicle thefts occurred at single homes, including driveways and garages.

More motor vehicle thefts occurred between the hours of 6 a.m. and noon than during any other 6-hour period in the day⁵. Theft between these hours accounted for 38% of all motor vehicle

³ The 11 offences are car theft, burglary, robbery, motorcycle theft, assault, sexual assault, theft personal property, attempted burglary, bicycle theft, theft from a car, and car vandalism.

⁴ The American definition of motor vehicle theft does not include farm equipment or construction equipment, where the Canadian definition does. These two categories, however, account for less than 1% of all stolen motor vehicles, and therefore would have only a very slight impact on the rate.

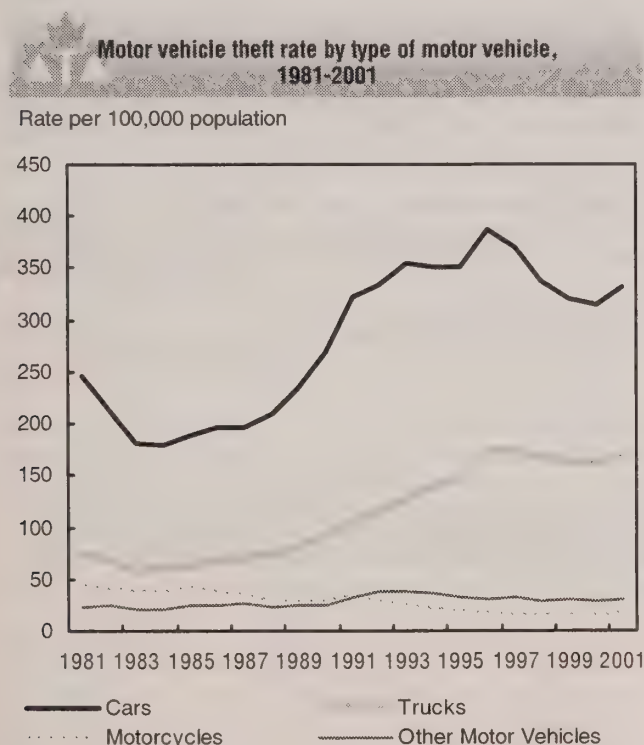
⁵ See description of UCR2 survey coverage in methodology section.

thefts, compared to 23% between midnight and 6 a.m., 20% between noon and 6 p.m. and 19% between 6 p.m. and midnight. Of all the motor vehicle thefts that occurred from single homes/houses, almost half (48%) were between the hours of 6 a.m. and noon.

Cars still at the highest risk of being stolen

In 2001 cars accounted for 60% of all motor vehicles stolen. A further 31% were trucks, vans, buses and recreational vehicles, 3% were motorcycles, and the final 6% were all other motorized vehicles (snowmobiles, tractor-trailers, construction equipment). This breakdown has changed somewhat over the past ten years, with the proportion of stolen cars decreasing and the proportion of stolen trucks (including vans and SUVs) increasing. The rate of trucks being stolen has increased 59% (Table 3) in the past decade, from 107 to 170 per 100,000 population. This increase illustrates the growing popularity of sports utility vehicles as a target for theft.

Figure 3



Source: UCR Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics.

The Vehicle Information Centre of Canada releases data each year on the model of vehicles being stolen most frequently⁶. Of all 1999-2000 model vehicles, the two-door Hyundai Tiburon (FX) had the highest theft frequency record, followed by the two-door Acura Integra and the two-door Honda Civic Si. In contrast, the models with the lowest theft frequency record were the Toyota Tundra four wheel drive V8, the Buick Park Avenue, and the Mercury Sable Wagon (Vehicle Information Centre of Canada, 2002).

Motive

There are generally four main motives for committing theft of a motor vehicle (Vancouver Police Department, 1999):

- The first, commonly referred to as 'joyriding', tends to be a crime of opportunity. This occurs when a vehicle is stolen with no purpose other than to ride around in it and then leave it somewhere when the ride is over. In these cases the vehicle is often recovered within a two-day period, and near the location from which it was stolen.
- The second motive for stealing a motor vehicle is to use it for the purpose of transporting the thief from one specific location to another. Once the thief has arrived at their intended destination, the motor vehicle will be abandoned.
- Third, motor vehicles are often also stolen for the purpose of transporting people to and from the scene of a crime, usually robbery, break and enter or drug trafficking. Once the crime has been committed, the stolen vehicle is abandoned, often after having been damaged.
- Finally, motor vehicles are stolen as part of commercial theft, primarily by organized crime. Vehicles can either be resold as a whole or dismantled and sold as parts.

When police pursue a stolen vehicle and the driver attempts to flee, the consequences can be serious. One report indicates that between 1991 and 1997, almost half of the vehicles stopped after police pursuits in Ontario were stolen, and that when the pursued vehicle was driven by a person aged 25 or under, the chase resulted in property damage, injuries, and death 72% of the time (National Committee to Reduce Auto Theft, 2000).

Further serious injury or death can occur when a thief attempts to steal a vehicle while the driver is still inside. The crime that has come to be known as 'car jacking' occurs when someone robs, or attempts to rob, a victim of his or her vehicle. What makes this a robbery, rather than a theft, is the presence or threat of violence to the victim. Some examples of the prevalence of this crime include 72 incidents reported by the Toronto Police in 2001, and 26 reported by Vancouver Police in the last 9 months of the same year.

Organized Crime and Motor Vehicle Theft

According to the Insurance Bureau of Canada, organized motor vehicle theft is a significant problem in Canada. Recent model sport-utility and luxury cars are often stolen for resale within Canada or abroad, while older model cars are usually stolen for parts (Insurance Bureau of Canada, 2002). A recent study undertaken by the Insurance Bureau of Canada found that the average age of vehicles in theft claims has increased every year since 1993, and now stands at 7.4 years. Older vehicles are now more likely to be the targets of theft than newer vehicles (Insurance Bureau of Canada, 2002b).

Cars that are stolen for resale within Canada are often subjected to Vehicle Identification Number (VIN) switching. This scheme occurs when car thieves buy a salvaged car in order

⁶ Vehicle Information Centre of Canada (2001), *How Cars Measure Up*. www.vic.com/english/MeasureUp.htm (accessed August 30, 2002).

to receive its title and vehicle identification number. They then steal the same model car and place the VIN from the salvaged vehicle onto the stolen vehicle. (Finn, 2000). The vehicle is generally then transported to a different province and resold.

Vehicles that are stolen for resale outside of Canada are generally left with their true VINs, loaded into shipping containers, and sent abroad with false export documents (Insurance Bureau of Canada, 2001). The Insurance Crime Prevention Bureau in Canada and the National Insurance Crime Bureau in the United States have launched the North American Export Committee initiative to combat the export of stolen vehicles within North America, with the help of representatives from the policing community and Customs. Vehicles destined for export are being recorded in a database that is available to all stakeholders, in order to identify stolen vehicles before they leave the country (Insurance Bureau of Canada, 2001). Many stolen vehicles are not exported to the United States, however, but rather pass through Canada's largest ports on their way to European, African, and Asian destinations (Martiniuk and Mazzilli, 2001).

A report by Transport Canada indicates that organized crime rings recruit youths to steal cars in order to protect the upper levels of organized crime. In this way, motor vehicle theft can often act as a gateway for youth to enter into a life of organized crime (National Committee to Reduce Auto Theft, 2000).

Recently, in some large cities incidents have occurred in which an accused has broken into a private home in order to steal the keys to a luxury car or sport utility vehicle that is parked in the driveway overnight, then driven away with the vehicle. In many cases, having the keys is the easiest and most effective means of bypassing computerized anti-theft devices. These stolen vehicles generally exit the country within a few days to be resold overseas, or undergo VIN switching for sale within Canada.⁷

When a vehicle is stolen for its parts it is generally taken to a secure building nearby, also known as a "chop shop", to be dismantled either completely or partially. In order to deal in stolen parts, thieves must have the requisite infrastructure, land and labour for processing vehicles and their parts (Grant and Grabosky, 2001). Once stolen, parts can be resold, used to replace worn or damaged parts, used to rebuild wrecked vehicles, or used in the upgrade of vehicles. In many instances, stolen parts re-enter the legitimate market, as they are sold to legitimate business owners who may or may not know that the parts came from a stolen vehicle (Grant and Grabosky, 2001).

Many researchers and car theft investigators use the number of stolen vehicles "never recovered" as an indicator of the number of vehicles stolen as part of commercial theft committed by organized crime rings. This number tends to underestimate the actual number of professional theft incidences, by counting vehicles that have been stripped and burnt as "recovered" and, therefore, a measure of opportunistic crime. In reality it is more likely that these vehicles were taken by professional thieves for the sale of parts (Gant and Grabosky, 2001).

According to the Insurance Crime Prevention Bureau, the proportion of stolen vehicles "not recovered" in major Canadian cities in recent years has remained around 25%. This supports data from a sub-set⁸ of respondents to the most recent version of the Incident Based UCR2 Survey, which shows that 24% of stolen vehicles in 2001 were not recovered.

Of those stolen vehicles that were recovered, most had been damaged in some way. Excluding cases in which the condition of the vehicle was unknown, in 2001, only one quarter of all

⁷ Toronto auto theft squad.

⁸ There were 115 respondents to the 2.1 version of the Revised UCR Survey in 2001.

Vehicle Theft Clearance Rates by province/territory, 2001

| | No. of vehicle thefts, 2001 | Cleared by charge | Cleared Otherwise | Total Cleared |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|---------------|
| | | % | % | % |
| Canada | 170,213 | 7.7 | 4.5 | 12.2 |
| Newfoundland and Labrador | 634 | 22.6 | 6.2 | 28.7 |
| Prince Edward Island | 272 | 17.6 | 4.4 | 22.1 |
| Nova Scotia | 2,755 | 10.2 | 4.5 | 14.7 |
| New Brunswick | 1,765 | 12.6 | 4.8 | 17.3 |
| Quebec | 42,054 | 6.5 | 3.0 | 9.5 |
| Ontario | 50,067 | 8.0 | 7.4 | 15.3 |
| Manitoba | 13,206 | 9.6 | 1.8 | 11.4 |
| Saskatchewan | 7,986 | 14.8 | 5.4 | 20.2 |
| Alberta | 17,467 | 10.8 | 6.1 | 16.8 |
| British Columbia | 33,242 | 3.8 | 2.2 | 6.0 |
| Yukon | 239 | 11.3 | 14.2 | 25.5 |
| Northwest Territories | 285 | 19.6 | 9.5 | 29.1 |
| Nunavut | 241 | 11.2 | 6.6 | 17.8 |

Source: UCR Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics.

recovered vehicles were found completely undamaged. Slightly over 2% of recovered vehicles had some parts or accessories missing. A further 69% of recovered vehicles had suffered some damage, while 4% of recovered vehicles had been completely destroyed, most through burning.

Clearance rates down across the country

Motor vehicle theft rates are characterized by relatively low clearance rates. In 2001, 13% of all vehicle theft incidents were "solved" by police, which is similar to other property crimes such as break-ins which had a clearance rate of 16%. Motor vehicle theft clearance rates across the country have decreased over the past decade.

In 2001, of the 170,213 incidents of motor vehicle theft, 8% were cleared by a charge being laid, and 5% were cleared "otherwise". An incident is cleared "otherwise" when the police have identified at least one accused and there is sufficient evidence to lay a charge in connection with the incident, but the accused is processed by other means. This could occur for many reasons, including that the police department has used discretion and decided not to lay a charge, or the accused has been diverted into an alternative measures program.

Clearance rates for motor vehicle thefts vary across the country, ranging from a high of 29% in Newfoundland and Labrador to a low of 6% in British Columbia.

PERSONS CHARGED WITH MOTOR VEHICLE THEFT

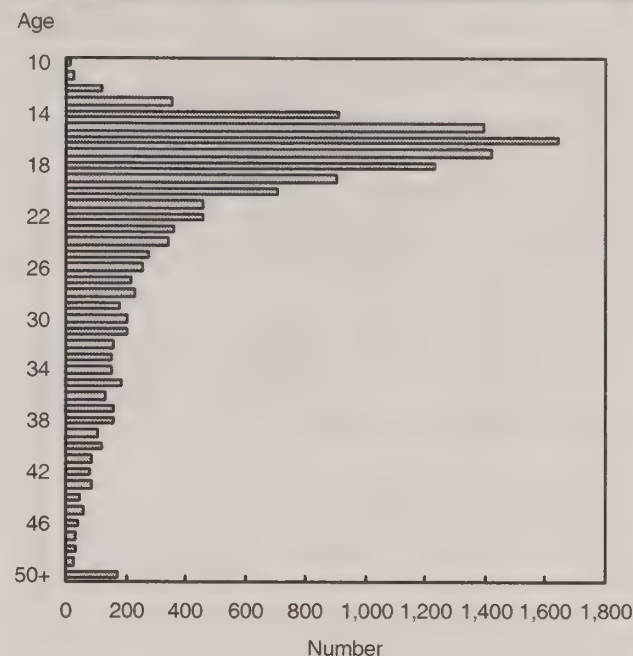
Youths account for nearly half of all persons charged with motor vehicle theft

The rate of youths aged 12 to 17 charged with motor vehicle thefts increased in 2001 for the second year in a row. While the rate was 35% lower than it was ten years ago, youths still accounted for nearly half (42%) of all persons charged with this crime. When taking into account all persons accused of motor vehicle theft in 2001, not only those who were charged, three-quarters were under the age of 25 (Figure 4).

Motor vehicle theft is a predominantly male offence. Males represented 88% of all persons charged with motor vehicle theft in 2001. However, the proportion of females has been increasing steadily for more than twenty years. In 1981, 5% of all persons charged were female, by 1991 that number had increased to 7%, and by 2001 to 12%. This figure is still much lower than for overall property crimes, with females accounting for 23% of all persons charged. Among the provinces, the proportion of females charged ranged from a low of 4% in Quebec to a high of 20% in Manitoba.

Figure 4

Persons accused of vehicle theft by age, 2001



Source: Incident Based UCR2 Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics.

THEFT FROM MOTOR VEHICLES

Theft from motor vehicles increases for the first time in ten years

Theft from motor vehicles includes the theft of items inside a vehicle, or vehicle accessories and parts (such as hubcaps, tires, or license plates). The rate of thefts from motor vehicles increased slightly (+1.3%) in 2001, the first increase in ten years (Table 5). The 2000 rate was the lowest since 1978.

British Columbia had the highest rate (1,968 thefts from motor vehicles per 100,000 population) of all the provinces. New Brunswick had the lowest rate, at 313.

Compared to ten years ago, thefts from motor vehicles have decreased substantially (-37%). All ten provinces have experienced declines over this time period, with the largest being in New Brunswick (-52%) and Alberta (-48%). The overall decline may be partly attributable to the increasing sophistication of vehicle anti-theft devices.

The item most likely to be stolen from a motor vehicle in 2001 was audio equipment⁹. These were taken in 20% of all thefts from motor vehicles. Personal accessories, such as clothing or luggage, accounted for 14% of the items stolen from motor vehicles in 2001, and a further 12% were vehicle accessories such as hubcaps or hood ornaments.

⁹ Data is from the UCR2 Survey.

PREVENTION

Anti-theft devices are becoming more popular

There are a number of measures that can be taken by vehicle owners and manufacturers to help prevent motor vehicle theft, including the use of steering wheel locking devices, alarms, etchings, ignition kill switches, fuel kill switches, gearshift locks, tire or wheel locks, hood locks, or vehicle tracking systems.

In 1998 the Vehicle Information Centre of Canada (VICC) introduced North America's first scientific standard for measuring the effectiveness of vehicle theft deterrent systems. The standard was developed in conjunction with car manufacturers, after-market anti theft device manufacturers, consumer representatives, police, insurers and the Insurance Bureau of Canada Investigative Services Division. The new standard requires deterrent systems to be passively armed (requiring no driver intervention), to be disarmed using many possible key codes and, when activated, cut off many vehicle systems such as the fuel pump, the ignition and the starter motor (Insurance Bureau of Canada, 2002).

Studies conducted by the VICC suggest that passive electronic immobilizers could decrease the incidence of car theft by as much as 70% and decrease the cost of theft by at least 50% (Insurance Bureau of Canada, 2002). Many vehicle manufacturers incorporate VICC approved anti-theft devices in their vehicles, and three after-market deterrent systems have also been approved by the VICC for those cars that do not come already equipped with them.

The Insurance Bureau of Canada indicates that while nearly half of all new motor vehicles sold in Canada are equipped with VICC approved anti-theft systems, most Canadians do not have anti-theft devices in their vehicles. Of those who do, 36% have car alarms, 26% have kill switches, and 21% have some form of steering lock such as The Club (Insurance Bureau of Canada, 2000).

Irreparable vehicles get "branded"

Another preventative measure in place in some Canadian jurisdictions is "branding". Under this program, the status of stolen and salvaged vehicles is recorded on registration documents and other relevant forms such as used-vehicle information packages, in order to discourage the misuse of vehicle information numbers (VINs) and to facilitate the tracking of vehicle ownership. Any vehicle that is branded as "irreparable" can never be put back on the road, so that its VIN becomes useless to thieves. Vehicles branded as "salvage" can only be returned to the road if they are rebuilt to provincial standards and re-branded accordingly. Currently vehicles are being "branded" in British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Quebec, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and Newfoundland and Labrador. In Ontario the process is voluntary (Insurance Bureau of Canada, 2001).

Parts marking

A third measure that can help discourage motor vehicle theft is parts marking (National Committee to Reduce Auto Theft, 2000). Vehicle identification numbers are engraved on very few body parts (fender, hood, and doors), making it difficult to

track stolen parts. Increasing the number of vehicle parts that are marked with a vehicle identification number can discourage theft of motor vehicles for the resale of parts. A number of jurisdictions, including Manitoba Public Insurance, encourage vehicle owners themselves to engrave the VIN on various parts of their vehicles, particularly on windows.

A study commissioned by the National Institute of Justice in the U.S. attempted to determine the effectiveness of parts labeling in reducing automobile thefts. In response to legislation introduced throughout the 1980s and 1990s, American automobile manufacturers had developed anti-theft labels and begun to affix them to vehicle parts that were considered to be at high risk of being stolen. While three-quarters of automobile theft investigators involved in the study reported that parts labeling aided officers in arresting individuals who steal or sell stolen parts and vehicles, they remained divided about whether parts labeling deterred actual theft of vehicles (Finn, 2001). However, it was felt that parts labeling does clearly increase the thieves' cost of doing business, as they must either take more time in selecting vehicles with unmarked parts, or accept less money from chop shop operators who must spend extra time removing the labels from the parts.

The study concluded that any effective form of parts labeling must take the form of manufacturers stamps in order to be effective, as labels can be more easily removed or counterfeited. Investigators cited seats and airbags most often as requiring marking in order to deter automobile theft (Finn, 2001).

Police initiated anti-theft programs

Another anti-crime program that has emerged in some Canadian jurisdictions involves police leaving cars, known as bait cars, in high auto-theft areas in the hopes that they will be stolen. The vehicles are usually equipped with a number of special systems, including discreet audio and visual recorders to obtain solid evidence for prosecution. If a bait car is stolen the police are able to track its movement using a global positioning system and remotely disable the vehicle, allowing for the arrest of the thieves (Blue Line, 2002).

Finally, a number of jurisdictions in Canada have encouraged vehicle owners to affix a visible sticker on their car window, which asks police to stop the car when it is being driven between certain hours and check the driver's identification. The hours are usually between midnight and 6:00 a.m. since that is when owners are least likely to be driving their vehicles. This time frame accounts for 23% of all motor vehicle thefts in Canada. In Manitoba this is part of the Combat Auto Theft (CAT) Program, which has been in effect since 1990.

METHODOLOGY

Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Survey - The Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, in co-operation with the policing community, collects police-reported crime statistics through the UCR Survey. The UCR survey produces a continuous historical record of crime and traffic statistics reported by every police agency in Canada since 1962. UCR data reflect reported crime that has been substantiated through police investigation.

Information collected by the survey includes the number of criminal incidents, the clearance status of those incidents and persons-charged information. The UCR survey is considered to be a summary or aggregate type census, with data available for nearly 100 separate criminal offences. The number of motor vehicle thefts and thefts from motor vehicles presented in this Juristat are based on the results of this survey.

Revised UCR (UCR2) Survey - In 1984, the UCR survey was redeveloped to expand the information collected. This new survey, called the Revised UCR survey, is a micro data survey that allows detailed examinations of accused and victim characteristics, as well as characteristics of the incident itself. Information in this Juristat on specific ages of accused persons, the status of accused persons (i.e. charged versus not charged), location and time of incidents and property type stolen is based on the results of this survey. In 2001, there were 154 police agencies reporting to the Revised UCR. The incidents contained in the 2001 database were distributed as follows: 40% from Ontario, 31% from Quebec, 10% from Alberta, 5% from British Columbia, 5% from Manitoba, 5% from Saskatchewan, 2% from Nova Scotia, 1% from New Brunswick, and 1% from Newfoundland & Labrador. Data from this non-representative sample accounted for 59% of the national volume of crime.

2000 International Crime Victimization Survey (ICVS) – The ICVS is a survey on criminal victimization that has been conducted in over 60 countries since its inception in 1989, including industrialized and developing countries. The operation and development of this survey is overseen by an international working group of criminologists. In Canada, interviews were completed with 2,074 randomly selected persons aged 16 years or older for the survey's most recent cycle. Interviews took place by telephone and asked respondents about their experiences with crime during 2000, their feelings of safety, security measures taken, their reasons for reporting or not reporting to police, and their perception of the justice system.

General Social Survey (GSS), Cycle 13 Victimization (1999) – The GSS is an annual survey that monitors changes in Canadian society and provides information on specific policy issues of current or emerging interest. Each year the survey focuses on a one of a variety of regular topics. In 1988, 1993, and 1999 the survey focused on victimization. The objectives of the survey are to provide estimates of the incidence of eight offence types, to examine factors related to the risk of victimization, victims' willingness to report crimes to the police, reasons for not reporting, and to measure public perceptions of crime and the criminal justice system. In 1988 and 1993, approximately 10,000 Canadians aged 15 years and older were interviewed. In 1999 the sample size was increased to approximately 26,000 in order to allow for more detailed analysis of small populations and crimes that occur less frequently.

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Table 1

Motor vehicle crimes, Canada, 1981-2001

| Year | Population ¹ | Motor Vehicle Theft | | | Theft from Motor Vehicles | | |
|------|-------------------------|---------------------|-------------------|------------------|---------------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| | | Number of thefts | Rate ² | % change in rate | Number of thefts | Rate ² | % change in rate |
| 1981 | 24,820,382 | 96,229 | 388 | 1.2 | 289,315 | 1,166 | 9.5 |
| 1982 | 25,117,424 | 86,997 | 346 | -10.7 | 292,453 | 1,164 | -0.1 |
| 1983 | 25,366,965 | 75,988 | 300 | -13.5 | 283,357 | 1,117 | -4.1 |
| 1984 | 25,607,555 | 76,613 | 299 | -0.1 | 281,497 | 1,099 | -1.6 |
| 1985 | 25,842,590 | 82,250 | 318 | 6.4 | 283,307 | 1,096 | -0.3 |
| 1986 | 26,100,587 | 85,585 | 328 | 3.0 | 297,502 | 1,140 | 4.0 |
| 1987 | 26,449,888 | 87,061 | 329 | 0.4 | 318,308 | 1,203 | 5.6 |
| 1988 | 26,798,303 | 89,454 | 334 | 1.4 | 322,517 | 1,203 | 0.0 |
| 1989 | 27,286,239 | 100,208 | 367 | 10.0 | 318,573 | 1,168 | -3.0 |
| 1990 | 27,700,856 | 114,082 | 412 | 12.1 | 352,675 | 1,273 | 9.0 |
| 1991 | 28,030,864 | 139,345 | 497 | 20.7 | 393,518 | 1,404 | 10.3 |
| 1992 | 28,376,550 | 146,801 | 517 | 4.1 | 390,887 | 1,378 | -1.9 |
| 1993 | 28,703,142 | 156,685 | 546 | 5.5 | 370,603 | 1,291 | -6.3 |
| 1994 | 29,035,981 | 159,469 | 549 | 0.6 | 351,385 | 1,210 | -6.3 |
| 1995 | 29,353,854 | 161,696 | 551 | 0.3 | 350,176 | 1,193 | -1.4 |
| 1996 | 29,671,892 | 180,123 | 607 | 10.2 | 346,428 | 1,168 | -2.1 |
| 1997 | 29,987,214 | 177,130 | 591 | -2.7 | 315,679 | 1,053 | -9.8 |
| 1998 | 30,248,210 | 165,920 | 549 | -7.1 | 292,903 | 968 | -8.0 |
| 1999 | 30,499,219 | 161,388 | 529 | -3.5 | 278,943 | 915 | -5.5 |
| 2000 | 30,769,669 | 160,315 | 521 | -1.5 | 268,030 | 871 | -4.8 |
| 2001 | 31,081,887 | 170,213 | 548 | 5.1 | 274,314 | 883 | 1.3 |

¹ Population estimates come from the Annual Demographic Statistics, 2001 report, produced by Statistics Canada, Demography Division. Populations as of July 1st: updated postcensal estimates for 2000 and preliminary postcensal estimates for 2001.

² Rates are expressed per 100,000 population.

Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics.

Table 2

Motor vehicle theft by province/territory, 2001

| | Population ¹ | Number of thefts | Rate ² | % change in rate 2000-2001 | % change in rate 1991-2001 |
|---------------------------|-------------------------|------------------|-------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Canada | 31,081,887 | 170,213 | 548 | 5.1 | 10.2 |
| Newfoundland and Labrador | 533,761 | 634 | 119 | -1.1 | -11.1 |
| Prince Edward Island | 138,514 | 272 | 196 | 22.7 | -14.7 |
| Nova Scotia | 942,691 | 2,755 | 292 | -4.1 | 34.9 |
| New Brunswick | 757,077 | 1,765 | 233 | 6.8 | 7.3 |
| Quebec | 7,410,504 | 42,054 | 567 | -1.4 | -16.0 |
| Ontario | 11,874,436 | 50,067 | 422 | 2.2 | 17.1 |
| Manitoba | 1,150,034 | 13,206 | 1,148 | 11.5 | 250.0 |
| Saskatchewan | 1,015,783 | 7,986 | 786 | 5.2 | 117.9 |
| Alberta | 3,064,249 | 17,467 | 570 | 15.0 | -12.5 |
| British Columbia | 4,095,934 | 33,242 | 812 | 12.5 | 12.1 |
| Yukon | 29,885 | 239 | 800 | 1.1 | 1.9 |
| Northwest Territories | 40,860 | 285 | 698 | 35.9 | ... |
| Nunavut | 28,159 | 241 | 856 | 18.5 | ... |

¹ Population estimates derived from the Annual Demographic Statistics, 2001 report, produced by Statistics Canada, Demography Division. Populations as of July 1st: updated postcensal estimates for 2000 and preliminary postcensal estimates for 2001.

² Rates are expressed per 100,000 population.

... not applicable

Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics.

Table 3a

Motor vehicle theft by Census Metropolitan Area (CMA), 2001

| CMA | Population ¹ | Number of thefts | Rate ² | % change in rate 2000-2001 | % change in rate 1991-2001 |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------|------------------|-------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Population 500,000 and over | | | | | |
| Toronto | 4,881,392 | 18,078 | 370 | 1.6 | 3.0 |
| Montréal | 3,511,845 | 27,250 | 776 | -3.2 | -22.4 |
| Vancouver | 2,078,824 | 23,882 | 1,149 | 9.1 | 10.9 |
| Calgary | 971,532 | 5,623 | 579 | -0.9 | -28.6 |
| Edmonton | 956,805 | 7,208 | 753 | 39.3 | -8.6 |
| Ottawa ³ | 844,969 | 4,125 | 488 | -11.9 | -14.6 |
| Québec | 693,064 | 2,008 | 290 | 26.4 | -41.4 |
| Winnipeg | 684,778 | 10,828 | 1,581 | 11.1 | 324.7 |
| Hamilton | 680,561 | 5,553 | 816 | 17.0 | 113.4 |
| Population 250,000 to 499,999 | | | | | |
| Kitchener ^{4,5} | 456,523 | 2,443 | 535 | 15.0 | 91.7 |
| St.Catharines-Niagara ⁵ | 427,023 | 1,740 | 407 | -12.2 | 28.9 |
| London ⁵ | 383,708 | 2,713 | 707 | -8.6 | 99.9 |
| Halifax | 359,186 | 1,832 | 510 | -9.6 | 61.1 |
| Victoria | 318,796 | 1,129 | 354 | 55.1 | 5.9 |
| Windsor | 313,838 | 1,558 | 496 | 12.4 | 49.4 |
| Gatineau ⁶ | 261,981 | 789 | 301 | -3.8 | -15.3 |
| Population 100,000 to 249,999 | | | | | |
| Saskatoon | 230,517 | 1,308 | 567 | -15.2 | 63.8 |
| Regina | 198,125 | 3,955 | 1,996 | 24.7 | 237.9 |
| St. John's | 176,163 | 322 | 183 | -1.7 | -24.2 |
| Sudbury ⁴ | 156,714 | 900 | 574 | 6.1 | -45.1 |
| Saint John ⁵ | 147,086 | 292 | 199 | 15.7 | -42.4 |
| Sherbrooke ⁵ | 144,970 | 1,203 | 830 | 8.0 | 44.1 |
| Saguenay ⁵ | 143,445 | 481 | 335 | -10.7 | -0.5 |
| Trois-Rivières | 141,535 | 628 | 444 | -11.6 | -6.2 |
| Thunder Bay | 124,581 | 518 | 416 | 11.6 | -19.5 |

¹ Population derived from the Annual Demographic Statistics, 2001 report, produced by Statistics Canada, Demography Division. Populations as of July 1st: updated postcensal estimates for 2000 and preliminary postcensal estimates for 2001.

² Rates are expressed per 100,000 population.

³ Ottawa refers to the Ontario part of the Ottawa-Gatineau CMA.

⁴ The population for this CMA differs from the population serviced by the police force in table 3b due to an incongruence between policing boundaries and CMA boundaries.

⁵ CMA population adjusted to follow police service boundaries.

⁶ Gatineau refers to the Quebec part of the Ottawa-Gatineau CMA.

Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics.

Table 3b

Motor vehicle thefts by police service (populations greater than 150,000), 2001

| Police Service | Population ¹ | Number of thefts, | 2001 Rate ² | % Change in rate 2000-2001 | % Change in rate 1991-2001 |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------|------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Toronto Police | 2,562,235 | 11,233 | 438 | 0.4 | 0.1 |
| Montreal Police | 1,838,474 | 16,652 | 906 | -6.9 | -23.5 |
| Peel Regional Police | 999,146 | 2,498 | 250 | -9.3 | -10.4 |
| Calgary Police | 899,285 | 5,486 | 610 | -1.2 | -27.7 |
| Ottawa-Carleton Regional Police | 800,525 | 4,007 | 501 | -12.2 | -39.9 |
| York Regional Police | 778,000 | 2,606 | 335 | 11.1 | 33.3 |
| Edmonton Police | 663,819 | 6,447 | 971 | 43.1 | -5.8 |
| Winnipeg Police | 631,675 | 10,665 | 1,688 | 11.3 | 339.8 |
| Vancouver Police | 573,154 | 6,635 | 1,158 | -10.3 | 25.2 |
| Durham Regional Police | 523,013 | 2,604 | 498 | 24.8 | 57.5 |
| Hamilton-Wentworth Regional Police | 503,043 | 5,116 | 1,017 | 16.6 | 128.9 |
| Waterloo Regional Police ³ | 456,767 | 2,434 | 533 | 15.0 | 90.9 |
| Niagara Regional Police | 426,912 | 1,734 | 406 | -12.2 | 27.7 |
| Halton Regional Police | 387,388 | 1,086 | 280 | 24.6 | 61.2 |
| Laval Police | 354,773 | 3,140 | 885 | -1.0 | -12.5 |
| London Police | 346,324 | 2,526 | 729 | -7.8 | 101.6 |
| Surrey Police | 344,620 | 7,006 | 2,033 | 26.8 | 27.3 |
| Québec Police | 273,664 | 848 | 310 | 67.4 | -63.0 |
| Windsor Police | 212,823 | 1,387 | 652 | 14.2 | 74.1 |
| Saskatoon Police | 205,508 | 1,237 | 602 | -14.6 | 61.1 |
| Halifax Regional Police | 200,673 | 1,427 | 711 | -14.8 | 52.7 |
| Burnaby (R.C.M.P) | 193,644 | 3,014 | 1,556 | 9.6 | -2.8 |
| Regina Police | 185,820 | 3,841 | 2,067 | 25.4 | 241.2 |
| St. John's (R.N.C) | 175,245 | 322 | 184 | -1.8 | -24.6 |
| Richmond (R.C.M.P) | 166,809 | 1,030 | 617 | 5.2 | -39.0 |
| Greater Sudbury Police ³ | 160,198 | 900 | 562 | 6.1 | -45.3 |

¹ Police Service population estimates were derived from 2001 preliminary postcensal population estimates (1996 Census boundaries), Demography Division, Statistics Canada.

² Rate per 100,000 population.

³ The population serviced by this police force differs from the CMA population appearing in table 3a due to an incongruence between policing boundaries and CMA boundaries.

Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics.

Table 4

Police - reported¹ vehicle thefts², 33 countries, 2000

| Country | No. of vehicle thefts 2000 | % change 1996-2000 | % change 1999-2000 |
|--------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Germany | 127,750 | -43 | -9 |
| Luxembourg ³ | 542 | -34 | -13 |
| England & Wales | 338,796 | -27 | -10 |
| Cyprus | 1,237 | -26 | 29 |
| Italy | 243,890 | -23 | -17 |
| Scotland ⁴ | 26,238 | -23 | -12 |
| Denmark | 33,730 | -22 | -4 |
| U.S.A. | 1,165,559 | -16 | 1 |
| Hungary ⁵ | 14,297 | -16 | -14 |
| Czech Republic | 25,539 | -14 | -12 |
| Canada ⁶ | 160,315 | -11 | -1 |
| France | 401,057 | -10 | 1 |
| Slovakia | 6,073 | -9 | -15 |
| Belgium | 33,395 | -1 | -7 |
| Slovenia | 1,291 | 3 | 13 |
| Netherlands ⁵ | 38,320 | 4 | 1 |
| Sweden ⁷ | 75,125 | 5 | -4 |
| Norway | 23,339 | 9 | 12 |
| Japan | 309,638 | 13 | 8 |
| Australia | 139,094 | 13 | 7 |
| Spain | 134,583 | 18 | -3 |
| Ireland (Eire) | 15,964 | 19 | 7 |
| Romania | 2,149 | 19 | -8 |
| Northern Ireland | 10,806 | 25 | 6 |
| Finland | 26,391 | 30 | -11 |
| Portugal | 26,428 | 32 | -6 |
| Latvia | 2,932 | 32 | -5 |
| Poland ⁵ | 68,062 | 34 | -9 |
| Estonia ⁸ | 2,322 | 41 | -5 |
| Lithuania | 9,006 | 44 | 35 |
| Austria | 8,601 | 49 | 51 |
| New Zealand ⁸ | 21,992 | .. | -14 |
| Malta | 1,051 | .. | -2 |

¹ Definitions of offences vary between countries both due to legal differences and statistical recording methods; comparisons may be affected by these differences.

² All land vehicles with an engine that run on the road which are used to carry people (including cars, motorcycles, buses, trucks, construction and agricultural vehicles, etc.).

³ Figures from 2000 onwards are not comparable with previous years as they no longer include offences dealt with by the Judicial Police.

⁴ Includes attempts.

⁵ Cars only.

⁶ Data for 2000 updated as of September 2002.

⁷ Includes attempts, preparation and conspiracy to commit an offence.

⁸ Taking/conversion of motor vehicles.

.. not available for a specific reference period

Source: Barclay, Gordon and Cynthia Tavares, (2002), *International comparisons of criminal justices statistics 2000*. U.K.: Home Office. Based on data from statistical contacts in each country.

Table 5

Theft from motor vehicles by province/territory, 2001

| Province/territory | Theft from Motor Vehicles | | | | |
|---------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| | Population ¹ | Number of thefts, | Rate ² | % Change in rate 2000-2001 | % Change in rate 1991-2001 |
| Newfoundland and Labrador | 533,761 | 1,764 | 330 | 33.3 | -29.3 |
| Prince Edward Island | 138,514 | 937 | 676 | -9.2 | -10.5 |
| Nova Scotia | 942,691 | 6,215 | 659 | -10.1 | -44.1 |
| New Brunswick | 757,077 | 2,371 | 313 | -5.8 | -52.5 |
| Quebec | 7,410,504 | 43,732 | 590 | -1.6 | -35.6 |
| Ontario | 11,874,436 | 85,011 | 716 | 5.5 | -43.9 |
| Manitoba | 1,150,034 | 10,878 | 946 | 12.5 | -39.1 |
| Saskatchewan | 1,015,783 | 11,439 | 1,126 | 10.4 | -9.5 |
| Alberta | 3,064,249 | 30,991 | 1,011 | 1.2 | -48.3 |
| British Columbia | 4,095,934 | 80,607 | 1,968 | -2.8 | -30.4 |
| Yukon Territory | 29,885 | 270 | 903 | 6.3 | -20.8 |
| Northwest Territories | 40,860 | 87 | 213 | -23.6 | ... |
| Nunavut | 28,159 | 12 | 43 | -8.5 | ... |
| Canada | 31,081,887 | 274,314 | 883 | 1.3 | -37.1 |

¹ Population estimates derived from the Annual Demographic Statistics, 2001 report, produced by Statistics Canada, Demography Division. Populations as of July 1st: updated postcensal estimates for 2000 and preliminary postcensal estimates for 2001.

² Rates are expressed per 100,000 population.

... not applicable

Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics.

Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics

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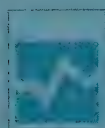
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ADULT CRIMINAL COURT STATISTICS, 2001/02

by Paul Robinson¹

Highlights

- In 2001/02, adult criminal courts in ten provinces and territories (not including Manitoba, Northwest Territories, and Nunavut) processed 452,450 cases involving 992,567 charges.
- Of total cases in 2001/02, nearly one-third (31%) were resolved within a month, and almost half (45%) took between one and eight months to complete. It took between eight months and one year to complete 11% of cases, and the elapsed time was more than one year in 12% of cases heard.²
- A guilty decision was recorded in 60% of cases heard in 2001/02, and 3% were acquitted. One-third (34%) of cases were either stayed, withdrawn, dismissed or discharged, and 3% were otherwise terminated by the court (e.g., decisions of not criminally responsible, waived out of province/territory, Charter arguments and accused was found unfit to stand trial).
- A term of probation was the most frequently imposed sanction (44% of guilty cases). A term of imprisonment was imposed in 34% of cases, and a fine was imposed in 34% of cases.
- The proportion of cases sentenced to prison varies across the country. In 2001/02, the highest incarceration rate was in Prince Edward Island, where 59% of guilty cases resulted in a term of imprisonment, while the lowest incarceration rate was in Saskatchewan, where prison was imposed in 23% of cases.
- In 2001/02, total cases processed by adult criminal courts increased 4% from the previous year for the eight jurisdictions reporting to the ACCS since 1997/98. These jurisdictions are Newfoundland and Labrador, Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, Quebec, Ontario, Saskatchewan, Alberta, and Yukon. This is the first increase in cases processed in five years. Total cases in 2001/02 were down 4% from 1997/98.
- The average number of charges per case (2.2) has increased very slightly since 1997/98 for the eight jurisdictions. The proportion of cases with three or more charges has increased from 19% of all cases in 1997/98 to 22% in 2001/02.

¹ Analyst, Courts Program.

² In *R. v. Morin*, the Supreme Court of Canada established an administrative guideline of 8 to 10 months for acceptable institutional delay for matters heard in provincial/territorial court, and an additional 6 to 8 months following a committal for trial.



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INTRODUCTION

This *Juristat* summarises trends from adult provincial/territorial criminal courts in the nine provinces and one territory (**Box 1**) which provided data to the Adult Criminal Court Survey (ACCS) for the 2001/02 reference year. In this *Juristat* information is presented on the characteristics of cases and accused persons, the number of appearances, conviction rates, sentencing trends and related issues.

Box 1

About the Survey

The analysis in this report is based on data from the Adult Criminal Court Survey. Data on disposed federal statute charges are collected by the Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics (CCJS) in collaboration with provincial and territorial government departments responsible for adult criminal courts.

At the time of this report, adult criminal courts in nine provinces and one territory reported to the ACCS. Reporting jurisdictions include: Newfoundland and Labrador, Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Quebec³, Ontario, Saskatchewan, Alberta, British Columbia⁴ and Yukon. In addition, in 2001/02 Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick, Alberta, British Columbia, and Yukon reported superior court data to the ACCS. These ten jurisdictions represent approximately 90% of the national adult criminal court caseload. The information presented in this report covers only these ten participating jurisdictions. The remaining jurisdictions (i.e. Manitoba, Northwest Territories⁵ and Nunavut) will be supplying data to the survey within the next few years.

The primary unit of analysis is the case, which is defined as one or more charges against an individual and disposed of in court on the same day. All case information that is used to define the case, is determined by the "most serious offence", as described in the methodology section. The individuals involved are persons 18 years or older at the time of the offence, companies, as well as youths who have been transferred to adult criminal court.

CASES HEARD IN ADULT CRIMINAL COURT

In 2001/02, adult criminal courts in ten provinces and territories processed 452,450 cases involving 992,567 charges. The large majority of cases (87%) had a *Criminal Code* charge as the most serious offence in the case.⁶ *Crimes Against the Person* accounted for 27%, and *Crimes Against Property* accounted for a further 23% of the total number of cases (**Table 1**). *Administration of Justice* offences constituted 17% of all cases, while *Criminal Code Traffic* comprised 14% of total cases. *Other Criminal Code* (which includes weapons offences and disturbing the peace offences, among others) represented 7% of all cases. The remaining 13% of cases dealt with *Other Federal Statutes*.^{7,8}

³ Information from Quebec's 140 municipal courts (which account for approximately 20% of federal statute charges in that province) are not yet collected.

⁴ During 2001/02, British Columbia was completing the implementation of a new justice information system, and some court information was not captured in the new system prior to the extraction of data for the ACCS. The level of under-coverage resulting from the system changes is estimated to be less than 5 percent.

⁵ The Northwest Territories last participated in the survey in 1999/00. In that year, data from the Northwest Territories accounted for 0.4% of the total caseload reported to the ACCS.

⁶ For statistical purposes, when a case has more than one charge, it is necessary to decide which charge will be used to represent the case. If the case includes a finding of guilt, that charge will always be considered the most serious. The most serious offence in a case with multiple guilty findings is determined based on the type of offence and the sentences imposed. See the methodology section for more details.

⁷ Other Federal Statutes refers to offences against Canadian federal statutes, such as the Customs Act, the Employment Insurance Act, Firearms Act, the Income Tax Act, and the Controlled Drugs and Substances Act. This offence category excludes Criminal Code offences.

⁸ Percentages may not add to 100 due to rounding.

Table 1

| Cases heard in adult criminal court Ten provinces and territories in Canada, 2001/02 | | |
|---|----------------|------------|
| Offence Group | Total Cases | % |
| Total Offences | 452,450 | 100 |
| Criminal Code Total | 395,792 | 87 |
| Crimes Against the Person | 120,512 | 27 |
| Homicide | 540 | 0.1 |
| Attempted murder | 389 | 0.1 |
| Robbery | 5,602 | 1.2 |
| Sexual Assault | 4,917 | 1.1 |
| Other sexual offences | 2,383 | 0.5 |
| Major assault | 25,732 | 5.7 |
| Common assault | 51,478 | 11.4 |
| Uttering threats | 22,757 | 5.0 |
| Criminal harassment | 3,572 | 0.8 |
| Other crimes against the person | 3,142 | 0.7 |
| Crimes Against Property | 104,764 | 23 |
| Theft | 41,117 | 9.1 |
| Break and enter | 13,181 | 2.9 |
| Fraud | 19,858 | 4.4 |
| Mischief | 11,874 | 2.6 |
| Possess stolen property | 17,833 | 3.9 |
| Other property crimes | 901 | 0.2 |
| Administration of Justice | 76,913 | 17 |
| Fail to appear | 10,979 | 2.4 |
| Breach of probation | 26,683 | 5.9 |
| Unlawfully at large | 3,213 | 0.7 |
| Fail to comply with order | 33,604 | 7.4 |
| Other administration of justice | 2,434 | 0.5 |
| Other Criminal Code | 30,156 | 7 |
| Weapons | 6,149 | 1.4 |
| Prostitution | 2,503 | 0.6 |
| Disturbing the peace | 2,994 | 0.7 |
| Residual Criminal Code | 18,510 | 4.1 |
| Criminal Code Traffic | 63,447 | 14 |
| Impaired driving | 52,662 | 11.6 |
| Other Criminal Code traffic | 10,785 | 2.4 |
| Other Federal Statute Total | 56,658 | 13 |
| Drug possession | 19,539 | 4.3 |
| Drug trafficking | 15,729 | 3.5 |
| Young Offenders Act | 2,156 | 0.5 |
| Residual federal statutes | 19,234 | 4.3 |

Notes: Due to rounding, percentages may not add to 100. In Québec, most drug offences are recorded under residual federal statutes, resulting in an undercount of drug possession and drug trafficking cases and an overcount of residual federal statute cases. Adult Criminal Court Survey data are not reported by Manitoba, Northwest Territories, and Nunavut.

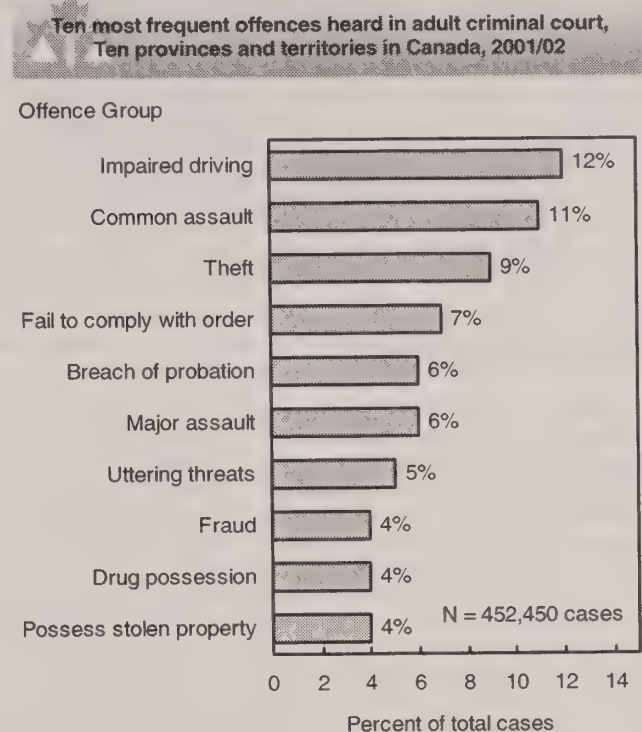
Source: Adult Criminal Court Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

Impaired driving and common assault are the most frequent offences

In 2001/02, the most frequently occurring offence was impaired driving, representing 12% of all cases, while common assault⁹ represented 11% of cases. Theft offences represented 9% of all cases, while two offences related to administration of justice, failure to comply with a court order (7%) and breach of probation (6%), were the next most frequently occurring

offences. Other frequently occurring offences were major assault (6%) and uttering threats (5%) (Figure 1). Taken together, all forms of sexual assault and sexual offences accounted for less than 2% of the caseload in adult criminal courts. Homicide and attempted murder together accounted for 0.2% of total cases.

Figure 1



Note: Adult Criminal Court Survey data are not reported by Manitoba, Northwest Territories, and Nunavut.

Source: Adult Criminal Court Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS OF PERSONS APPEARING IN COURT

Most adult criminal court cases involve males

Fully 83% of all cases at the adult criminal court level involved a male accused, while 15% of cases involved a female accused. In 2001/02, the sex of the accused was not recorded in less than 2% of the cases. The remaining cases (less than 1%) involved a company as the accused.

⁹ There are three levels of assault in the Criminal Code: Assault Level 1, s. 266, Assault Level II, s. 267, Assault Level III, s. 268. Common assault (Assault Level 1, s. 266) is the least serious of the three types of assault in the Criminal Code. A 'common' assault has been committed when an individual intentionally applies force or threatens to apply force to another person, without that person's consent. Major assault is an offence category that includes the higher levels of assault in the Criminal Code: assault with a weapon (Assault Level II, s. 267), aggravated assault (Assault Level III, s. 268), and other assaults (e.g. assaulting a police officer, and unlawfully causing bodily harm).

Although males accounted for the majority of cases, the distribution varied by type of offence. For *Crimes Against the Person* and *Criminal Code Traffic*, 86% of cases involved males, while males were involved in 78% of *Crimes Against Property*. The few offences for which females accounted for significant percentages of cases included: prostitution (46%), fraud (30%), and theft (27%, including shoplifting).

Younger adults are over represented in court cases

Younger adults were over represented in court when comparing the age distribution of the offender to the age distribution of the adult population. In 2001/02, 18 to 24 year olds comprised 12% of the adult population, but accounted for 31% of all cases in adult criminal court.¹⁰ Offenders under 45 years of age accounted for 85% of the total cases heard in adult criminal court and 53% of the adult population. In contrast, persons 55 or older represented 28% of the adult population, but accounted for less than 5% of adult criminal court cases (Table 2).

CASE PROCESSING

An offender's right to be brought to trial in a timely manner is a fundamental principle within the Canadian criminal justice system. Preparations for each case commence in the court registry with the scheduling of the first court appearance, and continue with further co-ordination of judicial resources throughout the criminal court process. There are a variety of factors, many of which are not under the direct control of the courts, that affect both case management and processing. Such factors include: the volume of cases being processed by a court; the complexity of cases; the types of offences being prosecuted; issues related to the co-ordination and availability of various participants within the criminal justice process; lawyers' decisions on the most appropriate course of action for their clients; and accused failing to appear in court.

Multiple charge cases,¹¹ which are complex and often more serious, accounted for 49% of all cases in 2001/02. In that year, 27% of all cases involved two charges and 23% had three or more charges.¹²

Median elapsed time from first to last court appearance just over 3 months

The amount of time it takes to complete the processing of a case has always been an important issue for court administrators, but since the 1990 Supreme Court decision in *R. v. Askov*,¹³ the case elapsed time issue has received even more attention. Overall, the median¹⁴ elapsed time from first to last appearance was 92 days. Median elapsed times varied considerably between jurisdictions. Median elapsed times were longest in Québec (124 days) and Ontario (99 days). In Prince Edward Island most cases were handled in one court appearance (Table 3).

Twelve percent of cases took more than 1 year to resolve

Of total cases in 2001/02, 31% were resolved in one month or less, and almost half (45%) took between one and eight months to complete. It took between eight months and one year to

Text Table 1

Median elapsed time to complete a case in adult criminal court, Cases by number of appearances, Ten provinces and territories in Canada, 2001/02

| Number of Appearances in the case | Total Cases | Median Time (days) |
|-----------------------------------|----------------|--------------------|
| One Appearance | 69,736 | 1 |
| Two Appearances | 65,061 | 22 |
| Three Appearances | 59,457 | 60 |
| Four Appearances | 50,884 | 99 |
| Five Appearances | 42,429 | 133 |
| Six or more Appearances | 164,883 | 244 |
| TOTAL | 452,450 | 92 |

Notes: The median represents the mid-point of a group of values when all the values are sorted by size. Median elapsed time is measured from first to last court appearance. Adult Criminal Court Survey data are not reported by Manitoba, Northwest Territories, and Nunavut.

Source: Adult Criminal Court Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

complete 11% of cases, and the elapsed time was more than one year in 12% of cases heard.¹⁵

Some offences take longer to resolve than others, such as sexual assault, other sexual offences and homicide. Sexual assault and other sexual offences had a median elapsed time of 219 and 244 days respectively in 2001/02. One of the shortest median elapsed times in 2001/02 occurred for failure to comply with a court order and failure to appear in court (29 days for both offences).

OVERVIEW OF CASE OUTCOMES

A majority of cases had at least one conviction

Six out of every ten cases heard in adult criminal court had a guilty decision in 2001/02 (Figure 2).¹⁶ In 34% of the cases, the most serious offence was resolved by being stayed, withdrawn, or dismissed, 3% of the cases resulted in the acquittal of the accused, and 3% had an 'other' decision (see Box 2).

¹⁰ Excludes 9,381 (2.1%) cases where age of the accused was unknown and 681 (0.2%) cases against companies.

¹¹ The classification of a case as a single-charge or multiple-charge is based on the total number of charges heard in the case, not just those charges resulting in a finding of guilt.

¹² Percentages may not add due to rounding.

¹³ 59 C.C.C. (3d) 449. In this decision, the Supreme Court affirmed the right of an accused to be brought to trial without excessive delay. Further clarification of the issue was provided by *R. v. Morin* (1992) 71 C.C.C. (3d) 193 (S.C.C.). The judgement in *Morin* suggested that an eight to ten month delay was tolerable between charges being laid and the subsequent trial in provincial court.

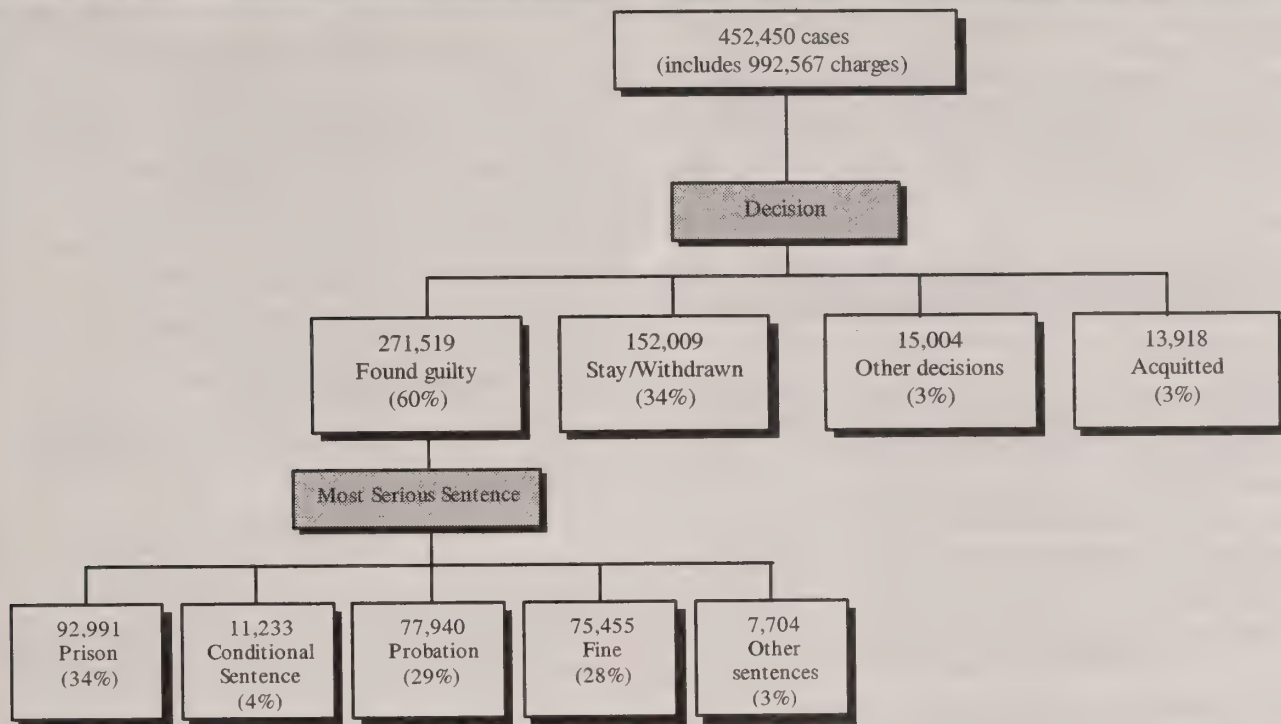
¹⁴ The median represents the mid-point of a group of values when all values are sorted by size.

¹⁵ Percentages may not add to 100 due to rounding.

¹⁶ Includes absolute and conditional discharges. After a guilty decision is rendered, the court may discharge the accused absolutely or on conditions specified in a probation order (CCC s.730). Approximately 7% of cases with a guilty decision in 2001/02 had an absolute or conditional discharge.

Figure 2

Adult court processing of federal statute cases in provincial and selected superior courts,
Ten provinces and territories in Canada, 2001/02



Notes: Found guilty decisions include absolute and conditional discharges. Stay/Withdrawn includes cases stayed, withdrawn, dismissed and discharges at preliminary inquiry. Other decisions includes final decisions of found not criminally responsible, waived in province/territory, and waived out of province/territory. This category also includes any order where a conviction was not recorded, the court's acceptance of a special plea, cases which raise Charter arguments and cases where the accused was found unfit to stand trial. The sentence was not known in approximately 2% of convicted cases in 2001/02. Conditional sentencing data was not collected in Québec for 2001/02, resulting in an undercount of conditional sentences. Probation totals include mandatory probation for cases given a conditional discharge (approximately 5% of cases with a guilty finding) or a suspended sentence (approximately 10% of cases with a guilty finding). Adult Criminal Court Survey data are not reported by Manitoba, Northwest Territories, and Nunavut.

Source: Adult Criminal Court Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

Box 2

Decisions in Adult Criminal Court

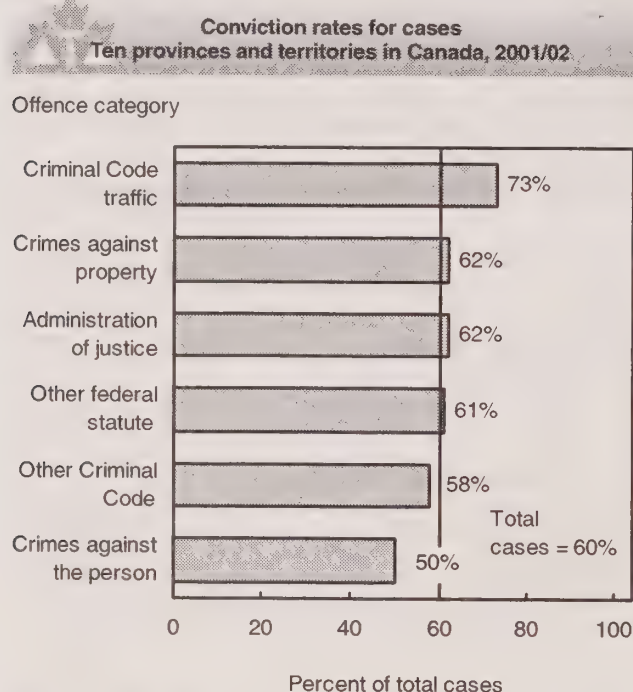
The decision categories in this report are as follows:

- **Guilty** includes guilty of the charged offence, of an included offence, of an attempt of the charged offence, or of an attempt of an included offence. This category also includes cases where an absolute or conditional discharge has been granted.
- **Stay/Withdrawn/Dismissed** includes stay of proceedings, and withdrawn/dissmised/discharged at preliminary inquiry. These decisions all refer to the court stopping criminal proceedings against the accused.
- **Acquittal** means that the accused has been found not guilty of the charges presented before the court.
- **Other decisions** includes final decisions of found not criminally responsible, waived in province/territory, and waived out of province/territory. This category also includes any order where a conviction was not recorded, the court's acceptance of a special plea, cases which raise Charter arguments and cases where the accused was found unfit to stand trial. In jurisdictions not providing superior court data (i.e., Newfoundland and Labrador, Nova Scotia, Quebec, Ontario, Saskatchewan), the "other decision" category includes charges having a committal for trial in superior court as the decision on the final appearance in provincial court.

Conviction rates vary by offence group

Criminal Code Traffic offences had the highest conviction rate¹⁷ (73%) in 2001/02 (**Figure 3**). Several factors impact on differing conviction rates for offence categories. For example, some crimes may be easier to prove than others, depending on the number and availability of witnesses and the complexity of evidence presented by the Crown. As well, the number of charges the police lay for each incident will influence the number of charges coming into court and may have an impact on the distribution of case decisions if some charges are dropped.

Figure 3



Note: Convictions include absolute and conditional discharges. Adult Criminal Court Survey data are not reported by Manitoba, Northwest Territories, and Nunavut.

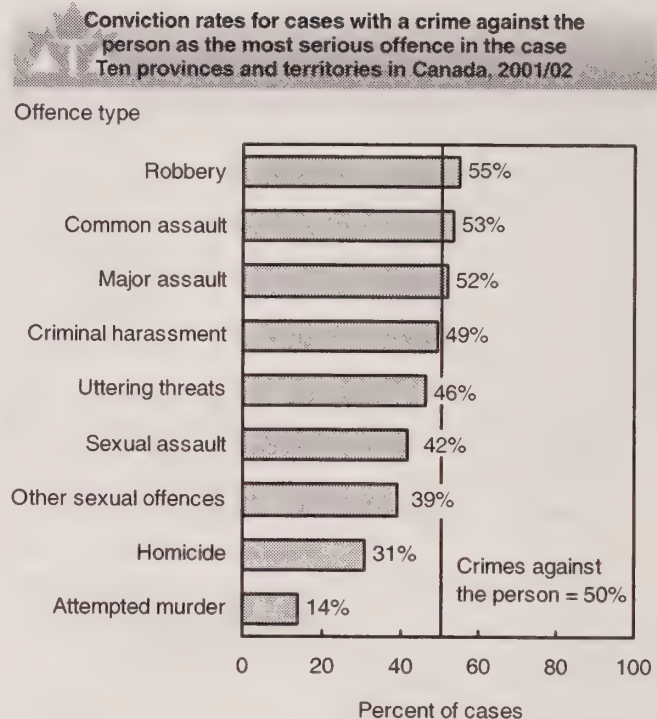
Source: Adult Criminal Court Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

On average, 50% of *Crimes Against the Person* resulted in a guilty decision (**Figure 4**). Conviction rates range from 14% for attempted murder to 53% for common assault and 55% for robbery. In contrast to *Crimes Against the Person*, there was considerable uniformity in the conviction rates for *Crimes Against Property*, with the conviction rates ranging from 54% for possession of stolen property to 68% for break and enter. On average, 62% of *Crimes Against Property* resulted in a conviction (**Figure 5**).

New Brunswick, Quebec, and Newfoundland and Labrador have higher conviction rates

Overall conviction rates were highest in New Brunswick (74%), Quebec (73%), and Newfoundland and Labrador (70%), and lowest in Nova Scotia (53%), Ontario (55%), and British Columbia (55%) (**Table 4**).

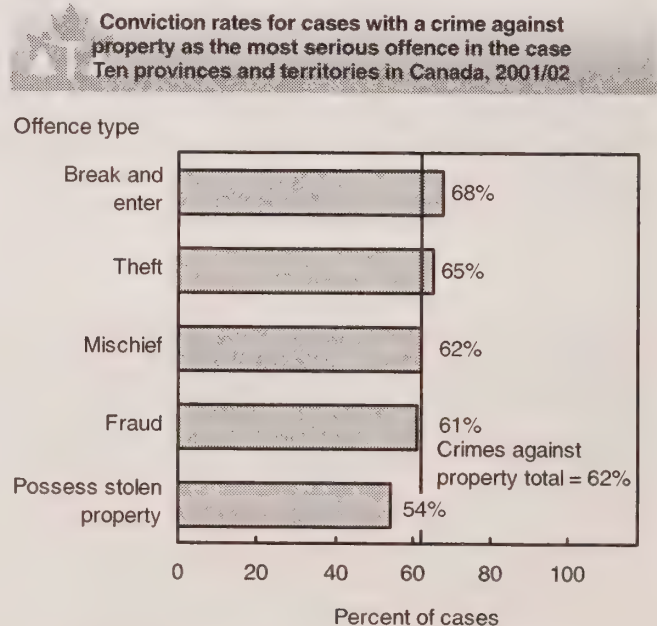
Figure 4



Note: Convictions include absolute and conditional discharges. Adult Criminal Court Survey data are not reported by Manitoba, Northwest Territories, and Nunavut.

Source: Adult Criminal Court Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

Figure 5



Note: Convictions include absolute and conditional discharges. Adult Criminal Court Survey data are not reported by Manitoba, Northwest Territories, and Nunavut.

Source: Adult Criminal Court Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

¹⁷ The conviction rate is the proportion of cases with a finding of guilt.

There are several possible factors that influence variations in conviction rates. First, some jurisdictions use diversion and alternative measures to a greater extent, which affects the number and types of cases that proceed to court. Secondly, the use of stays and withdrawals varies across the country, and this will have an impact on the percentage of cases in which a conviction is recorded. For example, 42% of cases were stayed or withdrawn in Ontario, whereas 11% were terminated this way in Quebec. Thirdly, the use of pre-charge screening by the Crown, which occurs in Quebec, New Brunswick and British Columbia may also affect the percentage of convictions through increased vetting of charges. Fourthly, the number of convictions recorded is slightly lower in jurisdictions not providing superior court data. In these jurisdictions (i.e., Newfoundland and Labrador, Nova Scotia, Quebec, Ontario, and Saskatchewan) the final court decision for cases completed in superior court (approximately 2% of caseload) would be committed for trial in superior court. Finally, the number of charges laid against an individual in relation to similar incidents may vary from one jurisdiction to another. For example, the same criminal incident may result in one charge (e.g., major assault) in one jurisdiction, and two charges (e.g., major assault and attempted murder) in another jurisdiction.

SENTENCING PATTERNS

Determining the sentence to be imposed is one of the most complex and challenging decisions for a court. At sentencing, the court will seek to impose a sentence that reflects the purpose, objectives and principles of the sentencing process, as outlined by section 718 of the Criminal Code.

Probation was the most common sentence in 2001/02

Probation was the most frequent sentence, imposed in 44% of all cases with a conviction.¹⁸ Prison was imposed in 34% of cases, and fines in 34% of all cases.¹⁹ A majority of convicted cases (62%) received what are classified as "other sentences". This category includes absolute discharges, conditional discharges, restitution, suspended sentences, and conditional sentences.

More than one third of convictions for *Crimes Against the Person* received prison

In 2001/02, 36% of convicted *Crimes Against the Person* cases were sentenced to prison. One factor to be considered when examining the use of incarceration in this category is that common assault – the least serious form of assault with a relatively low use of incarceration (25%) – represented a large proportion (45%) of convicted cases in the *Crimes Against the Person* category. When common assault is removed, the remainder of the *Crimes Against the Person* category has a higher use of incarceration (45%) (Table 5).

Majority of offenders convicted of break and enter were sentenced to prison

Offenders were sentenced to prison in 39% of the convicted *Crimes Against Property* cases. Persons committing these offences tend to have longer criminal histories, and after the seriousness of the crime, an offender's criminal history is one

of the most important factors considered by the court when determining the sanction to be imposed.²⁰ Prison was frequently used as a sanction for convictions in several *Crimes Against Property* offences. For example, 58% of convicted break and enter cases, 49% of possession of stolen property cases, and more than a third (37%) of theft cases resulted in a prison sentence.

A majority of convictions (52%) for *Administration of Justice* offences were sentenced to prison. This category is dominated by offences related to the criminal history of the accused (e.g., breach of probation, and failure to comply with a court order) and the courts consider administration of justice offences to be very serious.

Use of imprisonment varies considerably across the country

The proportion of cases sentenced to prison varies across the country. In 2001/02, the highest incarceration rate was in Prince Edward Island, where 59% of convicted cases resulted in a term of imprisonment, while the lowest incarceration rate was in Saskatchewan, where prison was imposed in 23% of cases (Figure 6).

This variation in the use of incarceration reflects the influence of several factors. First, the mix of offences being sentenced can vary from jurisdiction to jurisdiction. If a particular jurisdiction has a higher than average percentage of the more serious crimes, it may also have a higher than average overall percentage of cases being sent to prison.

Second, courts in different parts of the country may use incarceration in different ways. In Prince Edward Island, for example, first offenders convicted of impaired driving are frequently sent to prison. Since this offence category accounts for 26% of convicted cases in the province, the overall proportion of cases sentenced to prison in Prince Edward Island will be higher than the national average. Of all impaired driving convictions in Prince Edward Island, 91% resulted in incarceration. This is by far the highest in Canada followed by Newfoundland and Labrador at 28%. The lowest rate of incarceration occurred in Nova Scotia where 4% of the convicted impaired drivers were incarcerated.

It should be added that those jurisdictions that sentence a relatively lower percentage of convicted offenders to prison still may have relatively large per capita prison populations. If there is a high volume of convicted cases processed in a jurisdiction, the absolute number of offenders incarcerated may also be high, and this may result in a higher per capita prison population.

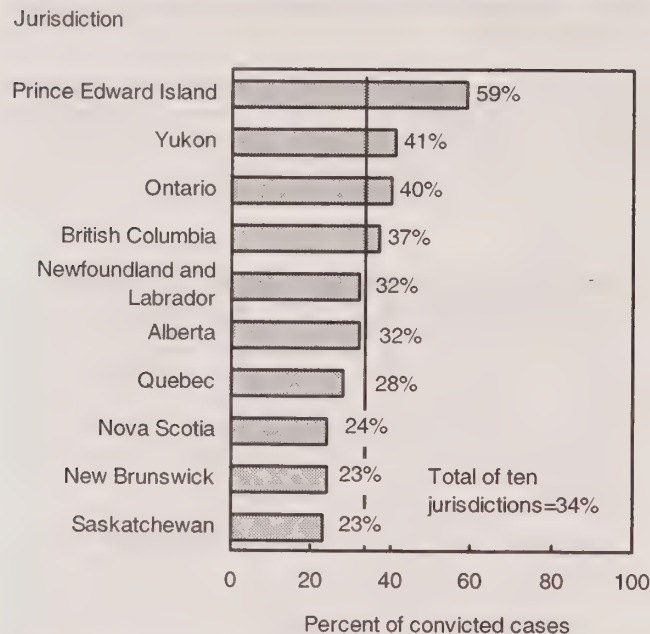
¹⁸ Probation is mandatory in cases where the accused is given a conditional discharge (approximately 5% of guilty cases in 2001/02) or a suspended sentence (approximately 13% of convictions).

¹⁹ Cases can have more than one sentence. Therefore, sanctions are not mutually exclusive and will not add to 100%.

²⁰ See M. Thomas, H. Hurley, and C. Grimes. 2002. *Pilot Analysis of Recidivism among Convicted Youth and Young Adults – 1999/00*. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 85-002 Vol.22 No.9. Ottawa: Statistics Canada.

Figure 6

Percent of convicted cases sentenced to prison for the most serious offence in the case
Ten provinces and territories in Canada, 2001/02



Notes: Includes cases completed in superior courts in Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick, Alberta, British Columbia, and Yukon. Information from Québec's 140 municipal courts (which account for approximately 20% of federal statute charges in that province) are not yet collected. Adult Criminal Court Survey data are not reported by Manitoba, Northwest Territories, and Nunavut.

Source: Adult Criminal Court Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

Most terms of imprisonment are relatively short

Over half (54%) of all custodial sentences imposed in 2001/02 were one month or less, while an additional 34% were for periods from greater than one month up to six months.²¹ Custodial sentences of greater than six months but less than two years were imposed in 9% of convicted cases with prison, and 4% were sentenced to custody for two years or more (Figure 7).²²

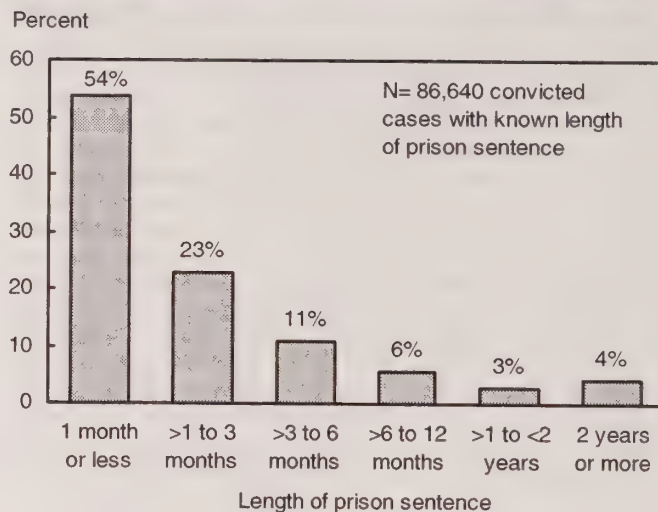
Use of probation²³ and fines

In 2001/02, *Crimes Against the Person* were most likely to result in a sentence of probation (Table 5). Almost three-quarters (73%) of convicted cases in this category were sentenced to a term of probation, compared to 54% of offenders convicted of a *Crime Against Property*. It should be noted that a substantial proportion of cases involving *Crimes Against the Person* received a term of imprisonment along with a probation order. Of the 44,346 convicted *Crimes Against the Person* cases that received probation in 2001/02, 30% also received a prison sentence.

In 2001/02, the most common probation term length was "greater than six months to one year" (47% of convicted cases

Figure 7

Convicted cases by length of prison sentence,
Ten provinces and territories in Canada, 2001/02



Notes: Due to rounding, percentages may not add to 100. The length of prison was unknown in approximately 7% of cases where prison was ordered. Adult Criminal Court Survey data are not reported by Manitoba, Northwest Territories, and Nunavut.

Source: Adult Criminal Court Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

with probation) (Figure 8).²⁴ One-third (32%) of cases were greater than 12 months to two years. Sixteen per cent were for six months or less. Only 6% of probation terms were for a period of more than two years. (The statutory limit on a term of probation is three years.)

In 2001/02, one-third (34%) of convicted cases were given a fine (Table 5). The median amount of fine was \$500.

TRENDS IN CASE PROCESSING STATISTICS

This section highlights trends in Adult Criminal Court statistics from 1997/98 to 2001/02 for the eight jurisdictions that have participated in the Adult Criminal Court Survey for each of the past five years. The jurisdictions are Newfoundland and Labrador, Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, Quebec, Ontario, Saskatchewan, Alberta, and Yukon. These eight jurisdictions represent approximately 80% of the national adult criminal court caseload.

²¹ Excludes 6,351 (6.8%) cases with a prison sentence, but unknown prison length.

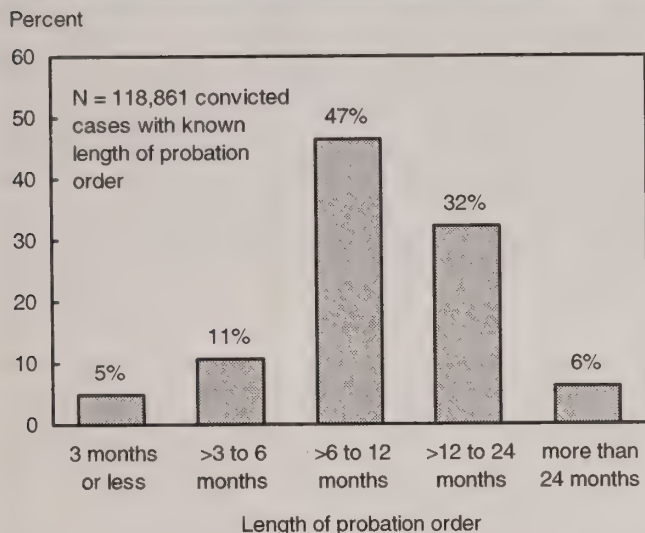
²² Percentages do not add to 100 due to rounding.

²³ This includes cases given a conditional discharge or a suspended sentence. Probation is mandatory in cases where a conditional discharge (CCC s.730(1)) or a suspended sentence (CCC s.731(1)(a)) are imposed.

²⁴ The length of probation was unknown in 465 (<1.0%) cases where probation was ordered.

Figure 8

Convicted cases by length of probation for the most serious offence in the case, Ten provinces and territories in Canada, 2001/02



Notes: Due to rounding, percentages may not add to 100. Probation totals include mandatory probation for cases given a conditional discharge (approximately 5% of convictions) or a suspended sentence (approximately 10% of convictions). The length of probation was unknown in 465 (<1.0%) cases where probation was ordered. Adult Criminal Court Survey data are not reported by Manitoba, Northwest Territories, and Nunavut.

Source: Adult Criminal Court Survey; Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

The number of cases²⁵ heard in adult criminal court has increased

The number of cases processed in 2001/02 increased to 382,072 for the eight jurisdictions, up by 4% over the previous year (Table 7). The 2001/02 increase is the first increase in cases heard during the last five years. Despite the recent increase, the total number of cases is still down 4% from 1997/98 totals.

The increase in cases reflects the recent trends in crime rates reported in the *Crime Statistics in Canada, 2001* Juristat.²⁶ In the eight jurisdictions, both actual and cleared by charge criminal incidents increased by 3% in 2001 from the previous calendar year,²⁷ the largest increase in those statistics in ten years.

The proportion of *Administration of Justice* cases has been increasing over the five-year period. In 1997/98, *Administration of Justice* cases accounted for 14% of all cases for the eight jurisdictions. By 2001/02, *Administration of Justice* represented 18% of all cases. The proportion of *Crimes Against the Person* cases has also increased since 1997/98, from 25% of cases to 27% in 2001/02.

The proportion of *Crimes Against Property* and *Criminal Code Traffic* cases, on the other hand, have each fallen 2 percentage points since 1997/98. *Crimes Against Property* and *Criminal Code Traffic* constituted 23% and 14% of cases, respectively, in 2001/02 (Table 7).

Cases are becoming more complex

The average number of charges per case has increased 4% rising from 2.12 in 1997/98 to 2.20 in 2001/02. Additionally, the proportion of multiple-charge cases increased from 47% of all cases to 49% over the five-year period. Further, the proportion of cases with three or more charges has increased from 19% of all cases in 1997/98 to 22% in 2001/02.

Cases require more time and more appearances to process

Between 1997/98 to 2001/02, the overall median case elapsed time from first to last appearance in court for the eight jurisdictions increased 8% from 89 to 96 days. The median processing time for the least complex cases, those with a single charge, increased 13% from 78 to 88 days, while the processing time for more complex cases (i.e., multiple-charge cases) was 102 days in 1997/98 and 106 days in 2001/02.

The mean number of appearances per case has increased 17%, from 4.6 appearances in 1997/98 to 5.4 appearances in 2001/02. The proportion of cases with six or more appearances increased from 29% of all cases to 36% during this same period. This suggests that although fewer cases were processed by the courts in 2001/02 compared to 1997/98, the actual demand on court resources by these complex cases has likely increased.

Conviction rates are stable

A guilty decision was recorded in 60% of cases heard in court in 2001/02 for the eight jurisdictions. The proportion of cases resulting in a conviction has varied by two percentage points over the past five years (62% in 1997/98).

²⁵ Revised figures for 1997/98, 1998/99, 1999/00, and 2000/01.

Revisions were made to the ACCS counting procedures and offence classifications, and applications under CCC s.810, s.810.01, s.810.1, and s.810.2 (peace bond applications) were excluded. Overall, the revisions reduced the number of cases in 1997/98 (2.5%), 1998/99 (1.8%), 1999/00 (1.9%), and 2000/01 (2.0%). See methodology section for more information on the changes to ACCS counting procedures.

²⁶ See J. Savoie. 2002. *Crime Statistics in Canada, 2001*. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 85-002 Vol.22 No.6. Ottawa: Statistics Canada. See also "Comparisons with other sectors in the justice system" in the methodology section for an overview of the differences between *Crime Statistics* and *Adult Criminal Court Statistics*.

²⁷ *Uniform Crime Reporting Survey*, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

Box 3

Superior court statistics, selected provinces and territories, 2001/02

In 2001/02, data on superior courts²⁸ were collected in Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick, Alberta, British Columbia, and the Yukon. Superior courts hear only indictable offences, and are the only courts with jurisdiction to try first and second degree murder charges. For charges other than the most serious indictable offences,²⁹ the accused can elect the mode of trial. This text box summarizes case processing, case outcomes, and sentencing in superior courts, and compares these statistics with similar statistics for provincial courts.

Case Processing: In 2001/02, 2,916 cases (2% of total cases) were completed in superior court in the five reporting jurisdictions. The most common cases were *Crimes Against the Person* (43% of superior court cases), followed by *Other Federal Statute* (29%) and *Crimes Against Property* (14%). *Other Criminal Code* cases accounted for 8% of superior court cases, and a small proportion of cases involved *Criminal Code Traffic* (4%) and *Administration of Justice* (1%) matters.³⁰

More than half of the homicide³¹ cases (56%) for the five jurisdictions were completed in superior court in 2001/02. Approximately one quarter of other sexual offences cases (26%) and 22% of sexual assault cases were completed in superior court.

In 2001/02, superior court cases took longer to process than provincial court cases. In four jurisdictions,³² the median elapsed time for superior court cases was over nine months (290 days), compared to 74 days for provincial court cases, and for each offence type completed in superior court, the median elapsed times were considerably longer in superior court than provincial court (Table 6). The procedures used to elect trial in superior court, scheduling a trial, and jury selection are some of the factors contributing to the longer case processing times. Although superior courts process relatively few cases, the inclusion of superior court data in the ACCS slightly increased overall case processing times for the four jurisdictions.

Text Table 2

Cases in superior and provincial/territorial criminal court, mean and median elapsed time to complete a case, 2001/02

| Court | # of Court cases | Elapsed Time Three provinces and one territory | |
|------------------|------------------|---|-------------------|
| | | median (in days) | mean (in days) |
| Total | 132,351 | 78 | 170 |
| Provincial court | 129,482 | 74 | 165 |
| Superior court | 2,869 | 290 | 381 |

Notes: The median represents the mid-point of a group of values when all the values are sorted by size. Median and mean elapsed time is measured from first to last court appearance. Superior court data is collected in Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick, Alberta, British Columbia, and Yukon. Prince Edward Island superior court data does not include information on the number of appearances and elapsed time from first to last case appearance.

Source: Adult Criminal Court Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

Case Outcomes: Cases completed in superior court in the five reporting jurisdictions had a conviction rate of 47%, much lower than for provincial court cases in the same jurisdictions in 2001/02. The lower conviction rate may be in part a reflection of the nature of superior court cases, as superior courts hear a relatively large proportion of cases involving serious offences. Conviction rates for some offences (e.g., robbery, sexual assault, and major assault) are slightly lower in superior courts than in provincial courts.

Sentencing: The majority (52%) of cases convicted in superior court were sentenced to prison and more than one-quarter (29%) were given a conditional sentence in 2001/02. Probation was the most serious sentence in 9% of convicted cases,³³ and 9% of cases received a fine as the most serious sentence. The remaining 1% of cases received, as the most serious sentence, other types of sentences.³⁴ Compared to provincial court, prison is more frequently used in superior court for offences under *Crimes Against the Person*. For other types of offences (*Other Federal Statute*, *Crimes Against Property*), the frequency of prison sentences differs little between superior and provincial courts.

Text Table 3

Cases in superior and provincial/territorial criminal court, mean and median prison sentence length, 2001/02

| Court | # of Court cases | Prison Length Four provinces and one territory | |
|------------------|------------------|---|-------------------|
| | | median (in days) | mean (in days) |
| Total | 25,290 | 30 | 129 |
| Provincial court | 24,619 | 30 | 101 |
| Superior court | 671 | 540 | 1,187 |

Notes: The median represents the mid-point of a group of values when all the values are sorted by size. Superior court data is collected in Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick, Alberta, British Columbia, and Yukon.

Source: Adult Criminal Court Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

In 2001/02, 56% of cases with a prison sentence in superior court had a sentence of more than one year, and 42% had a term of two years or more; in provincial court, only 6% of prison sentences were for more than one year. For all offence groups, the mean and median length of prison sentence were considerably higher in superior court than provincial court (Table 6).

²⁸ Superior court refers to Court of Queen's Bench in New Brunswick, and Alberta, and the Supreme Court in Prince Edward Island, British Columbia, and Yukon.

²⁹ Superior court has absolute jurisdiction over the indictable offences listed in section 469 of the Criminal Code. These offences include murder, treason, and intimidating Parliament, among others. Provincial court has absolute jurisdiction over the offences listed in CCC s. 553, which includes failure to comply with probation order, driving while disqualified, theft (other than theft of cattle), etc. All other indictable offences are eligible for election to superior court by the accused.

³⁰ Percentages may not add to 100 due to rounding.

³¹ The offence homicide includes offences such as murder, infanticide, and manslaughter.

³² Prince Edward Island superior court data do not include information on the number of appearances and elapsed time from first to last case appearance.

³³ Probation is mandatory in cases where the accused is given a conditional discharge or a suspended sentence.

³⁴ Excludes 32 cases (2%) with a conviction, and an unknown sentence.

SENTENCING TRENDS IN ADULT CRIMINAL COURT

The proportion of convicted cases sentenced to prison remains stable

The proportion of convicted cases where prison was used as a sanction remained stable between 1997/98 (33%) and 2001/02 (34%) for the eight jurisdictions. However, some variability in incarceration rates was evident at the offence level. For example, the incarceration rate for attempted murder and homicide had the largest increases, as attempted murder went from an incarceration rate of 61% in 1997/98 to 71% in 2001/02 and the incarceration rate for homicide increased from 81% to 88%³⁵. Alternatively, the incarceration rate for other sexual offences decreased 9 percentage points to 53% over the same period.

Some offences show increases in prison sentence lengths

The median prison sentence length for *Criminal Code* offences has been 30 days for four of the last five years, peaking at 35 days in 1998/99. While the overall prison sentence length has remained stable, there has been movement in the median sentence length for some offences. For instance, between 1997/98 and 2001/02, the median prison sentence for other sexual offences increased from 270 to 360 days and from 270 to 300 days for sexual assault (Table 8).

The use of probation and the length of orders has remained stable

The proportion of cases receiving probation as a sanction has been stable (approximately 44%) since 1997/98 (Figure 9). Among all offence groups, the largest increase between 1997/98 and 2001/02 occurred for *Other Federal Statutes* where the rate of probation for guilty cases increased from 23% to 28%. Weapons offences showed the largest increase, with the proportion of convicted cases receiving probation increasing from 45% to 51%.

The length of probation orders was also stable from 1997/98 to 2001/02. The overall median length of all probation orders was 365 days throughout the five year period (Table 8).

Imposition of fine sentences has been decreasing

Since 1997/98, the imposition of fine sentences has been decreasing (Figure 9). In 2001/02, 34% of convicted cases were given a fine, compared to 42% in 1997/98. During the same period, there has been a trend towards imposing higher fines. In 1997/98, 22% of all fines were for amounts over \$500, whereas by 2001/02, 45% of all fines were for amounts over \$500. The median amount of fine,³⁶ which was \$300 in 1997/98, increased to \$500 in both 2000/01 and 2001/02 (Table 8).

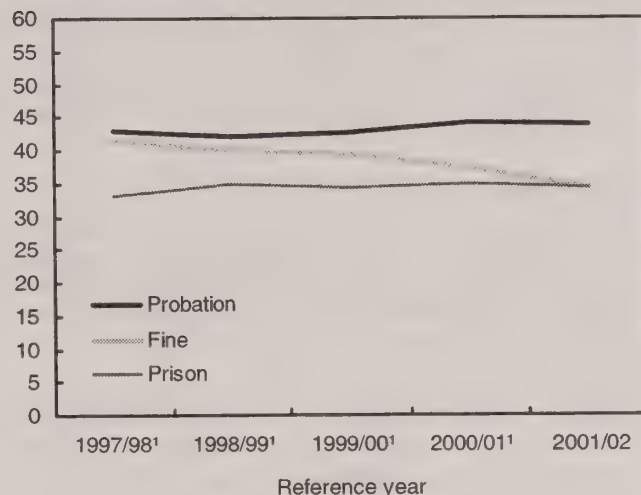
METHODOLOGY

The purpose of the Adult Criminal Court Survey (ACCS) is to provide a national database of statistical information on the processing of cases through the adult criminal court system. The survey consists of a census of *Criminal Code* and other

Figure 9

Convicted cases by type of sentence,
Eight provinces and territories in Canada, 1997/98 to 2001/02

Percent convicted cases



¹ Revised figures for 1997/98, 1998/99, 1999/00, and 2000/01. Revisions were made to the ACCS counting procedures and offence classifications, and applications under CCC s.810, s.810.01, s.810.1, and s.810.2 (peace bond applications) were excluded. Overall, the revisions reduced the number of cases in 1997/98 (2.5%), 1998/99 (1.8%), 1999/00 (1.9%), and 2000/01 (2.0%). See methodology section for more information on the changes to ACCS counting procedures.

Notes: The sentence types presented are not mutually exclusive and will not add to 100. This figure does not include data from New Brunswick, Manitoba, British Columbia, Northwest Territories and Nunavut.

Source: Adult Criminal Court Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

federal statute charges dealt with in adult criminal courts. The ACCS represents approximately 90% of the national adult criminal court caseload.

Coverage

Some limitations on coverage of the survey should be noted. Manitoba is not included in the survey for any year. Data from Nunavut were included as part of the Northwest Territories prior to April 1, 1999; however, Nunavut has not reported to the ACCS since splitting from the Northwest Territories. Data from the Northwest Territories are not available for 1996/97, 2000/01, or 2001/02, and include two fiscal quarters of data for the territory in 1994/95 and three fiscal quarters of data in 1999/00. New Brunswick and British Columbia began reporting to the ACCS in 2001/02. There is slight under-coverage (i.e., less than 5%) of completed cases in British Columbia for 2001/02. Also, some court locations in Quebec are not included. Information from Quebec's 140 municipal courts (which account for approximately 20% of federal statute charges in that province) is not yet collected. Finally, with the exception of

³⁵ The 2001/02 incarceration rates for the eight jurisdictions may vary from those in Table 5 because the incarceration rates in Table 5 include New Brunswick and British Columbia.

³⁶ Fine amounts are given in current dollars.

Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick, Alberta, British Columbia and the Yukon, no data are provided from superior courts.

The absence of data from all but five superior court jurisdictions may result in a slight underestimation of the severity of sentences imposed across Canada. The reason for this is that some of the most serious cases, which are likely to result in the most severe sanctions, are processed in superior courts. While these limitations are important, comparisons from one year to another are possible if the reporting jurisdictions used in the comparison are held constant.

Counting Procedures

The basic unit of count for the Adult Criminal Court Survey is a case. A case is one or more charges against an accused person or corporation, where the charges receive a final disposition on the same date. Charges are linked to a case on the basis of the accused identifier and the date of the last court appearance.

The Adult Criminal Court Survey counts a charge more than once under any of the following circumstances:

- a charge is stayed in one time period and restarted in another time period;
- a charge is stayed and subsequently restarted with different case identifiers; or,
- a charge is transferred from one province/territory to another.

Transfers

The commencement of data collection from superior courts in 1998/99 resulted in changes to the data collection and processing methods used by the ACCS. In the jurisdictions providing superior court data (i.e., Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick, Alberta, British Columbia, and Yukon), changes in court level – either committals for trial in superior court, or re-elections to provincial court – are not captured as final decisions for the reference period.³⁷ In contrast, elections to superior court are counted as final provincial court decisions in jurisdictions not providing superior court data (i.e., Newfoundland and Labrador, Nova Scotia, Quebec, Ontario, and Saskatchewan). This results in an under count of cases with a finding of guilt of approximately 2% in these jurisdictions.

Most serious offence and decision rules

When a case has more than one charge, it is necessary to decide which charge will be used to represent the case (since a case is identified by a single charge). In such multiple-charge cases, the “most serious decision” rule is applied. Decisions are ranked from the most to the least serious as follows: 1) guilty, 2) guilty of a lesser offence, 3) committed for trial in a superior court, 4) other decisions were imposed, 5) stay of proceeding, 6) acquitted, withdrawn, dismissed.

In cases where two or more offences have resulted in the same decision (e.g., guilty), the “most serious offence” rule is applied. All charges are ranked according to a seriousness scale based on the average length of prison sentence imposed on convicted charges between 1994/95 and 2000/01. If two charges are tied according to this criterion, information about the sentence

type (e.g., prison, probation, and fine) is considered. If a tie still exists, the magnitude of the sentence is considered.

Factors influencing the number of charges laid

Charging policies are determined individually by provinces and territories. In British Columbia, Quebec, and New Brunswick, for example, the police must obtain the approval of the Crown prosecutor before a charge is laid. In other provinces and territories, the police have exclusive responsibility for the laying of a charge. This variability may affect the number and nature of charges laid across the country.

Comparisons with other sectors of the justice system

Policing:

The Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics conducts the Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) survey. This survey collects data on the crimes reported to the police. Counts from the UCR survey for offences cleared by charge are not comparable to the Adult Criminal Court Survey (ACCS) figures for charges disposed of. There are many reasons for this. In part, it is the result of scoring rules used by the UCR survey. The UCR survey counts violent offences in terms of the number of victims in the incident; non-violent offences are counted in terms of the number of separate incidents. Furthermore, the published UCR figures include offences involving youths, while the ACCS case counts include only the very few youth offences that have been transferred to adult court. Moreover, information is captured in the UCR with the laying of a charge, while in the ACCS, information is captured upon the court rendering a decision. This time lag in data collection between the two surveys further affects comparability.

Corrections:

The number of cases sentenced to prison, as reported by the ACCS, will differ from the number of actual admissions to correctional facilities. The CCJS conducts the Adult Correctional Services (ACS) Survey, which measures, among other things, the number of persons admitted to correctional facilities in Canada. The number of cases with prison sentences (ACCS) and the number of admissions to correctional facilities (ACS) differ because the number of sentenced admissions reported by the Adult Correctional Services survey includes persons sentenced to prison in superior courts as well as admissions resulting from fine defaults. In 2001/02, only five jurisdictions, Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick, Alberta, British Columbia, and the Yukon, reported superior court data to the ACCS. Sentences to prison for reason of fine defaults are not collected by the ACCS survey. Also, any accused sentenced to time served prior to a sentence commencing would be counted differently in each survey. The ACCS does not have data on the duration of prison time already served, and the correctional data would identify these sentences as a remand prior to the completion of the trial.

³⁷ The election is captured as a final decision if the election is the result for the final appearance record in the provincial/territorial court system during the data reference period. This situation is only possible near the end of the reference period when an accused elects to change their court level and the ACCS extracts court data prior to the next appearance of the accused in superior court or in provincial/territorial court on re-election from superior court.

Table 2

Cases by age of accused, Ten provinces and territories in Canada, 2001/02

| Offence Group | Total Cases | Age Group | | | | | | | | | |
|------------------------------------|----------------|----------------|-------------|----------------|-------------|----------------|-------------|---------------|-------------|---------------|------------|
| | | 18 to 24 | | 25 to 34 | | 35 to 44 | | 45 to 54 | | 55 plus | |
| | | # | % | # | % | # | % | # | % | # | % |
| Total Offences | 442,388 | 136,019 | 30.7 | 127,662 | 28.9 | 111,591 | 25.2 | 47,156 | 10.7 | 19,960 | 4.5 |
| Criminal Code Total | 388,062 | 115,077 | 29.7 | 113,136 | 29.2 | 100,010 | 25.8 | 42,015 | 10.8 | 17,824 | 4.6 |
| Crimes Against the Person | 117,479 | 28,507 | 24.3 | 35,740 | 30.4 | 34,015 | 29.0 | 13,570 | 11.6 | 5,647 | 4.8 |
| Homicide | 495 | 155 | 31.3 | 161 | 32.5 | 103 | 20.8 | 48 | 9.7 | 28 | 5.7 |
| Attempted murder | 376 | 134 | 35.6 | 106 | 28.2 | 74 | 19.7 | 32 | 8.5 | 30 | 8.0 |
| Robbery | 5,513 | 2,644 | 48.0 | 1,552 | 28.2 | 1,018 | 18.5 | 273 | 5.0 | 26 | 0.5 |
| Sexual Assault | 4,802 | 982 | 20.4 | 1,374 | 28.6 | 1,313 | 27.3 | 664 | 13.8 | 469 | 9.8 |
| Other sexual offences | 2,340 | 310 | 13.2 | 595 | 25.4 | 778 | 33.2 | 371 | 15.9 | 286 | 12.2 |
| Major assault | 25,198 | 7,719 | 30.6 | 7,740 | 30.7 | 6,299 | 25.0 | 2,451 | 9.7 | 989 | 3.9 |
| Common assault | 49,930 | 10,848 | 21.7 | 15,702 | 31.4 | 15,217 | 30.5 | 5,915 | 11.8 | 2,248 | 4.5 |
| Uttering threats | 22,354 | 4,466 | 20.0 | 6,565 | 29.4 | 7,201 | 32.2 | 2,923 | 13.1 | 1,199 | 5.4 |
| Criminal harassment | 3,443 | 484 | 14.1 | 963 | 28.0 | 1,190 | 34.6 | 560 | 16.3 | 246 | 7.1 |
| Other crimes against the person | 3,028 | 765 | 25.3 | 982 | 32.4 | 822 | 27.1 | 333 | 11.0 | 126 | 4.2 |
| Crimes Against Property | 102,954 | 38,067 | 37.0 | 28,994 | 28.2 | 23,376 | 22.7 | 8,970 | 8.7 | 3,547 | 3.4 |
| Theft | 40,439 | 12,978 | 32.1 | 10,766 | 26.6 | 10,141 | 25.1 | 4,494 | 11.1 | 2,060 | 5.1 |
| Break and enter | 12,970 | 6,550 | 50.5 | 3,528 | 27.2 | 2,227 | 17.2 | 560 | 4.3 | 105 | 0.8 |
| Fraud | 19,393 | 5,566 | 28.7 | 6,357 | 32.8 | 5,023 | 25.9 | 1,853 | 9.6 | 594 | 3.1 |
| Mischief | 11,715 | 5,020 | 42.9 | 3,157 | 26.9 | 2,373 | 20.3 | 821 | 7.0 | 344 | 2.9 |
| Possess stolen property | 17,549 | 7,565 | 43.1 | 4,930 | 28.1 | 3,451 | 19.7 | 1,188 | 6.8 | 415 | 2.4 |
| Other property crimes | 888 | 388 | 43.7 | 256 | 28.8 | 161 | 18.1 | 54 | 6.1 | 29 | 3.3 |
| Administration of Justice | 75,719 | 26,323 | 34.8 | 22,980 | 30.3 | 18,163 | 24.0 | 6,315 | 8.3 | 1,938 | 2.6 |
| Fail to appear | 10,779 | 4,167 | 38.7 | 3,353 | 31.1 | 2,278 | 21.1 | 758 | 7.0 | 223 | 2.1 |
| Breach of probation | 26,263 | 8,759 | 33.4 | 8,287 | 31.6 | 6,495 | 24.7 | 2,132 | 8.1 | 590 | 2.2 |
| Unlawfully at large | 3,165 | 1,022 | 32.3 | 1,055 | 33.3 | 833 | 26.3 | 198 | 6.3 | 57 | 1.8 |
| Fail to comply with order | 33,145 | 11,602 | 35.0 | 9,611 | 29.0 | 7,978 | 24.1 | 2,982 | 9.0 | 972 | 2.9 |
| Other administration of justice | 2,367 | 773 | 32.7 | 674 | 28.5 | 579 | 24.5 | 245 | 10.4 | 96 | 4.1 |
| Other Criminal Code | 28,890 | 9,921 | 34.3 | 8,396 | 29.1 | 6,354 | 22.0 | 2,907 | 10.1 | 1,312 | 4.5 |
| Weapons | 6,011 | 2,295 | 38.2 | 1,508 | 25.1 | 1,168 | 19.4 | 665 | 11.1 | 375 | 6.2 |
| Prostitution | 2,462 | 459 | 18.6 | 884 | 35.9 | 713 | 29.0 | 293 | 11.9 | 113 | 4.6 |
| Disturbing the peace | 2,938 | 1,274 | 43.4 | 755 | 25.7 | 543 | 18.5 | 263 | 9.0 | 103 | 3.5 |
| Residual Criminal Code | 17,479 | 5,893 | 33.7 | 5,249 | 30.0 | 3,930 | 22.5 | 1,686 | 9.6 | 721 | 4.1 |
| Criminal Code Traffic | 63,020 | 12,259 | 19.5 | 17,026 | 27.0 | 18,102 | 28.7 | 10,253 | 16.3 | 5,380 | 8.5 |
| Impaired driving | 52,357 | 9,711 | 18.5 | 13,704 | 26.2 | 15,136 | 28.9 | 8,967 | 17.1 | 4,839 | 9.2 |
| Other Criminal Code traffic | 10,663 | 2,548 | 23.9 | 3,322 | 31.2 | 2,966 | 27.8 | 1,286 | 12.1 | 541 | 5.1 |
| Other Federal Statute Total | 54,326 | 20,942 | 38.5 | 14,526 | 26.7 | 11,581 | 21.3 | 5,141 | 9.5 | 2,136 | 3.9 |
| Drug possession | 19,213 | 9,379 | 48.8 | 5,092 | 26.5 | 3,527 | 18.4 | 1,078 | 5.6 | 137 | 0.7 |
| Drug trafficking | 15,222 | 4,560 | 30.0 | 5,003 | 32.9 | 3,799 | 25.0 | 1,447 | 9.5 | 413 | 2.7 |
| Young Offenders Act | 2,103 | 2,077 | 98.8 | 12 | 0.6 | 10 | 0.5 | 3 | 0.1 | 1 | 0.0 |
| Residual federal statutes | 17,788 | 4,926 | 27.7 | 4,419 | 24.8 | 4,245 | 23.9 | 2,613 | 14.7 | 1,585 | 8.9 |

Notes: Due to rounding, percentages may not add to 100.

Age is the age of the accused at the time of the offence.

Excludes 9,381 (2.1%) cases where age of the accused was unknown or under 18 at the time of the offence and 681 (0.2%) cases against companies.

In Québec, most drug offences are recorded under residual federal statutes, resulting in an undercount of drug possession and drug trafficking cases and an overcount of residual federal statute cases.

Adult Criminal Court Survey data are not reported by Manitoba, Northwest Territories, and Nunavut.

Source: Adult Criminal Court Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

Table 3

**Median elapsed time to complete a case in adult criminal court,
Cases by jurisdiction and by number of appearances,
Ten provinces and territories in Canada, 2001/02**

Elapsed time (in days) by number of appearances

| Jurisdiction | Total Cases | median (in days) | One appearance | | Two appearances | | Three appearances | | Four appearances | | Five appearances | | Six or more appearances | |
|---------------------------|----------------|---------------------|----------------|---------------------|-----------------|---------------------|-------------------|---------------------|------------------|---------------------|------------------|---------------------|-------------------------|---------------------|
| | | | # | median (in days) | # | median (in days) | # | median (in days) | # | median (in days) | # | median (in days) | # | median (in days) |
| TOTAL | 452,450 | 92 | 69,736 | 1 | 65,061 | 22 | 59,457 | 60 | 50,884 | 99 | 42,429 | 133 | 164,883 | 244 |
| Newfoundland and Labrador | 7,203 | 76 | 1,718 | 1 | 1,411 | 36 | 1,151 | 92 | 908 | 141 | 631 | 189 | 1,384 | 277 |
| Prince Edward Island | 1,859 | 1 | 1,098 | 1 | 376 | 22 | 214 | 50 | 93 | 87 | 45 | 92 | 33 | 183 |
| Nova Scotia | 13,923 | 91 | 3,206 | 1 | 2,928 | 43 | 2,474 | 117 | 1,857 | 169 | 1,250 | 240 | 2,208 | 340 |
| New Brunswick | 10,168 | 61 | 2,612 | 1 | 2,488 | 37 | 1,807 | 86 | 1,147 | 125 | 787 | 162 | 1,327 | 273 |
| Québec | 70,073 | 124 | 10,230 | 1 | 9,908 | 36 | 11,605 | 90 | 9,418 | 139 | 7,335 | 190 | 21,577 | 350 |
| Ontario | 200,252 | 99 | 23,791 | 1 | 23,710 | 21 | 21,841 | 44 | 20,235 | 77 | 18,519 | 109 | 92,156 | 229 |
| Saskatchewan | 26,789 | 70 | 5,993 | 1 | 4,950 | 28 | 3,950 | 71 | 3,216 | 120 | 2,398 | 162 | 6,282 | 288 |
| Alberta | 60,850 | 78 | 12,987 | 1 | 11,077 | 29 | 9,607 | 78 | 7,646 | 114 | 5,630 | 142 | 13,903 | 238 |
| British Columbia | 60,210 | 79 | 7,913 | 1 | 8,048 | 15 | 6,669 | 34 | 6,242 | 61 | 5,717 | 89 | 25,621 | 204 |
| Yukon | 1,123 | 72 | 188 | 1 | 165 | 26 | 139 | 43 | 122 | 79 | 117 | 91 | 392 | 179 |

Notes: The median represents the mid-point of a group of values when all the values are sorted by size.

Median elapsed time is measured from first to last court appearance.

Information from Québec's 140 municipal courts (which account for approximately 20% of federal statute charges in that province) are not yet collected.

Median elapsed time includes cases completed in superior courts in Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick, Alberta, British Columbia, and the Yukon.

Adult Criminal Court Survey data are not reported by Manitoba, Northwest Territories, and Nunavut.

Source: Adult Criminal Court Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

Table 4

**Cases by decision,
Ten provinces and territories in Canada, 2001/02**

Decision

| Jurisdiction | Total Cases | Found Guilty | | Stay/Withdrawn | | Acquittal | | Other | |
|---------------------------|----------------|----------------|-------------|----------------|-------------|---------------|------------|---------------|------------|
| | | # | % | # | % | # | % | # | % |
| TOTAL | 452,450 | 271,519 | 60.0 | 152,009 | 33.6 | 13,918 | 3.1 | 15,004 | 3.3 |
| Newfoundland and Labrador | 7,203 | 5,068 | 70.4 | 1,875 | 26.0 | 7 | 0.1 | 253 | 3.5 |
| Prince Edward Island | 1,859 | 1,230 | 66.2 | 582 | 31.3 | 16 | 0.9 | 31 | 1.7 |
| Nova Scotia | 13,923 | 7,329 | 52.6 | 5,747 | 41.3 | 536 | 3.8 | 311 | 2.2 |
| New Brunswick | 10,168 | 7,495 | 73.7 | 2,185 | 21.5 | 359 | 3.5 | 129 | 1.3 |
| Québec | 70,073 | 50,817 | 72.5 | 7,371 | 10.5 | 8,828 | 12.6 | 3,057 | 4.4 |
| Ontario | 200,252 | 110,038 | 54.9 | 84,054 | 42.0 | 998 | 0.5 | 5,162 | 2.6 |
| Saskatchewan | 26,789 | 16,899 | 63.1 | 8,677 | 32.4 | 315 | 1.2 | 898 | 3.4 |
| Alberta | 60,850 | 38,909 | 63.9 | 20,166 | 33.1 | 884 | 1.5 | 891 | 1.5 |
| British Columbia | 60,210 | 33,103 | 55.0 | 20,901 | 34.7 | 1,954 | 3.2 | 4,252 | 7.1 |
| Yukon | 1,123 | 631 | 56.2 | 451 | 40.2 | 21 | 1.9 | 20 | 1.8 |

Notes: Due to rounding, percentages may not add to 100.

Found guilty decisions include absolute and conditional discharges.

Stay/Withdrawn includes cases stayed, withdrawn, dismissed and discharged at preliminary inquiry.

Other decisions includes final decisions of found not criminally responsible, waived in province/territory, and waived out of province/territory. This order also includes any order where a conviction was not recorded, the court's acceptance of a special plea, cases which raise Charter arguments and cases where the accused was found unfit to stand trial. In jurisdictions not providing superior court data (i.e., Newfoundland and Labrador, Nova Scotia, Quebec, Ontario, Saskatchewan), the other decision category includes charges having a committal for trial in superior court as the decision on the final appearance in provincial court.

The calculation of conviction rates includes cases completed in superior courts in Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick, Alberta, British Columbia, and the Yukon.

Information from Québec's 140 municipal courts (which account for approximately 20% of federal statute charges in that province) are not yet collected.

Adult Criminal Court Survey data are not reported by Manitoba, Northwest Territories, and Nunavut.

Source: Adult Criminal Court Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

Table 5

**Convicted cases by type of sentence for the most serious offence in the case,
Ten provinces and territories in Canada, 2001/02**

| Offence group | Convicted Cases | Type of Sentence for Most Serious Offence | | | | | |
|------------------------------------|-----------------|---|-------------|----------------|-------------|---------------|-------------|
| | | Prison | | Probation | | Fine | |
| | | # | % | # | % | # | % |
| Total Offences | 271,519 | 92,991 | 34.2 | 119,326 | 43.9 | 92,144 | 33.9 |
| Criminal Code Total | 237,142 | 86,229 | 36.4 | 109,665 | 46.2 | 73,823 | 31.1 |
| Crimes Against the Person | 60,488 | 21,838 | 36.1 | 44,346 | 73.3 | 7,064 | 11.7 |
| Homicide | 166 | 145 | 87.3 | 21 | 12.7 | 6 | 3.6 |
| Attempted murder | 55 | 39 | 70.9 | 15 | 27.3 | 0 | 0.0 |
| Robbery | 3,085 | 2,294 | 74.4 | 1,534 | 49.7 | 39 | 1.3 |
| Sexual Assault | 2,055 | 994 | 48.4 | 1,434 | 69.8 | 120 | 5.8 |
| Other sexual offences | 927 | 478 | 51.6 | 694 | 74.9 | 27 | 2.9 |
| Major assault | 13,311 | 6,078 | 45.7 | 8,980 | 67.5 | 1,560 | 11.7 |
| Common assault | 27,513 | 6,859 | 24.9 | 21,121 | 76.8 | 3,969 | 14.4 |
| Uttering threats | 10,498 | 3,863 | 36.8 | 8,218 | 78.3 | 1,149 | 10.9 |
| Criminal harassment | 1,751 | 553 | 31.6 | 1,536 | 87.7 | 121 | 6.9 |
| Other crimes against the person | 1,127 | 535 | 47.5 | 793 | 70.4 | 73 | 6.5 |
| Crimes Against Property | 65,140 | 25,476 | 39.1 | 34,922 | 53.6 | 12,730 | 19.5 |
| Theft | 26,635 | 9,921 | 37.2 | 13,029 | 48.9 | 6,314 | 23.7 |
| Break and enter | 8,901 | 5,171 | 58.1 | 5,312 | 59.7 | 570 | 6.4 |
| Fraud | 12,086 | 4,035 | 33.4 | 7,230 | 59.8 | 1,742 | 14.4 |
| Mischief | 7,342 | 1,456 | 19.8 | 4,699 | 64.0 | 1,841 | 25.1 |
| Possess stolen property | 9,683 | 4,708 | 48.6 | 4,348 | 44.9 | 2,163 | 22.3 |
| Other property crimes | 493 | 185 | 37.5 | 304 | 61.7 | 100 | 20.3 |
| Administration of Justice | 48,020 | 24,812 | 51.7 | 14,655 | 30.5 | 12,891 | 26.8 |
| Fail to appear | 5,191 | 2,781 | 53.6 | 1,317 | 25.4 | 1,424 | 27.4 |
| Breach of probation | 18,873 | 9,663 | 51.2 | 6,328 | 33.5 | 4,988 | 26.4 |
| Unlawfully at large | 2,580 | 2,140 | 82.9 | 352 | 13.6 | 239 | 9.3 |
| Fail to comply with order | 19,978 | 9,788 | 49.0 | 5,941 | 29.7 | 5,883 | 29.4 |
| Other administration of justice | 1,398 | 440 | 31.5 | 717 | 51.3 | 357 | 25.5 |
| Other Criminal Code | 17,375 | 5,439 | 31.3 | 8,039 | 46.3 | 5,458 | 31.4 |
| Weapons | 3,535 | 1,034 | 29.3 | 1,808 | 51.1 | 1,064 | 30.1 |
| Prostitution | 1,146 | 273 | 23.8 | 488 | 42.6 | 424 | 37.0 |
| Disturbing the peace | 1,858 | 240 | 12.9 | 784 | 42.2 | 865 | 46.6 |
| Residual Criminal Code | 10,836 | 3,892 | 35.9 | 4,959 | 45.8 | 3,105 | 28.7 |
| Criminal Code Traffic | 46,119 | 8,664 | 18.8 | 7,703 | 16.7 | 35,680 | 77.4 |
| Impaired driving | 38,640 | 5,241 | 13.6 | 5,487 | 14.2 | 32,508 | 84.1 |
| Other Criminal Code traffic | 7,479 | 3,423 | 45.8 | 2,216 | 29.6 | 3,172 | 42.4 |
| Other Federal Statute Total | 34,377 | 6,762 | 19.7 | 9,661 | 28.1 | 18,321 | 53.3 |
| Drug possession | 11,517 | 1,374 | 11.9 | 3,161 | 27.4 | 6,530 | 56.7 |
| Drug trafficking | 7,327 | 3,095 | 42.2 | 2,255 | 30.8 | 1,489 | 20.3 |
| Young Offenders Act | 1,396 | 567 | 40.6 | 453 | 32.4 | 452 | 32.4 |
| Residual federal statutes | 14,137 | 1,726 | 12.2 | 3,792 | 26.8 | 9,850 | 69.7 |

Notes: The sentence types presented are not mutually exclusive and will not add to 100.

Probation totals include mandatory probation for cases given a conditional discharge (CCCs.730(1)) or a suspended sentence (CCC s.731(1)(a)).

In Québec, most drug offences are recorded under residual federal statutes, resulting in an undercount of drug possession and drug trafficking cases and an overcount of residual federal statute cases.

Adult Criminal Court Survey data are not reported by Manitoba, Northwest Territories, and Nunavut.

Source: Adult Criminal Court Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

Table 6

**Cases in provincial and superior courts by mean and median elapsed time,
and by mean and median length of prison sentence in 2001/02**

| Offence Category | Total | | | Provincial Court | | | Superior Court | | |
|--|----------------|---------------------|-------------------|------------------|---------------------|-------------------|----------------|---------------------|-------------------|
| | # | median (in days) | mean (in days) | # | median (in days) | mean (in days) | # | median (in days) | mean (in days) |
| Elapsed time,¹ Total Cases | 132,351 | 78 | 170 | 129,482 | 74 | 165 | 2,869 | 290 | 381 |
| Crimes against the person | 30,567 | 104 | 171 | 29,325 | 100 | 164 | 1,242 | 268 | 329 |
| Crimes against property | 34,791 | 82 | 208 | 34,404 | 80 | 205 | 387 | 283 | 483 |
| Administration of justice | 21,476 | 27 | 118 | 21,441 | 27 | 118 | 35 | 291 | 371 |
| Other <i>Criminal Code</i> | 7,971 | 74 | 157 | 7,747 | 71 | 149 | 224 | 300 | 442 |
| <i>Criminal Code</i> traffic | 20,173 | 73 | 157 | 20,047 | 72 | 156 | 126 | 311 | 387 |
| Other federal statutes | 17,373 | 91 | 177 | 16,518 | 84 | 166 | 855 | 335 | 393 |
| Total Cases with prison² | 25,290 | 30 | 129 | 24,619 | 30 | 101 | 671 | 540 | 1,187 |
| Crimes against the person | 4,944 | 60 | 331 | 4,593 | 60 | 222 | 351 | 730 | 1,770 |
| Crimes against property | 8,589 | 30 | 99 | 8,505 | 30 | 96 | 84 | 210 | 366 |
| Administration of justice | 6,167 | 7 | 20 | 6,160 | 7 | 20 | 7 | 1 | 8 |
| Other <i>Criminal Code</i> | 1,200 | 30 | 114 | 1,150 | 30 | 86 | 50 | 365 | 758 |
| <i>Criminal Code</i> traffic | 2,485 | 30 | 68 | 2,452 | 30 | 60 | 33 | 240 | 653 |
| Other federal statutes | 1,905 | 60 | 189 | 1,759 | 60 | 156 | 146 | 453 | 579 |

¹ Four provinces and territories (i.e., New Brunswick, Alberta, British Columbia, and Yukon).

² Five provinces and territories (i.e., Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick, Alberta, British Columbia, and Yukon).

Notes: The median represents the mid-point of a group of values when all the values are sorted by size.

Median elapsed time is measured from first to last court appearance.

Excludes cases where length of prison was not known, and cases where the length was specified as indeterminant. Cases sentenced to life imprisonment were recorded to 9,125 days (or 25 years) for the calculation of sentence lengths.

Superior court data is collected in Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick, Alberta, British Columbia, and Yukon.

Prince Edward Island superior court data does not include information on the number of appearances and elapsed time from first to last case appearance.

Source: Adult Criminal Court Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

Table 7

Number of cases heard in adult criminal court,
Ten provinces and territories in Canada, 1997/98 to 2001/02

| Offence Category | 1997/98 ¹ | | 1998/99 ¹ | | 1999/00 ¹ | | 2000/01 ¹ | | 2001/02 | |
|------------------------------------|----------------------|-------------|----------------------|-------------|----------------------|-------------|----------------------|-------------|----------------|-------------|
| | # | % | # | % | # | % | # | % | # | % |
| Total Offences | 397,944 | 100 | 384,437 | 100 | 369,811 | 100 | 367,883 | 100 | 382,072 | 100 |
| Criminal Code Total | 352,277 | 88.5 | 339,889 | 88.4 | 325,289 | 88.0 | 323,418 | 87.9 | 337,001 | 88.2 |
| Crimes Against the Person | 99,400 | 25.0 | 97,295 | 25.3 | 93,749 | 25.4 | 95,405 | 25.9 | 102,576 | 26.8 |
| Homicide | 375 | 0.1 | 473 | 0.1 | 412 | 0.1 | 399 | 0.1 | 409 | 0.1 |
| Attempted murder | 430 | 0.1 | 378 | 0.1 | 322 | 0.1 | 270 | 0.1 | 326 | 0.1 |
| Robbery | 4,539 | 1.1 | 4,652 | 1.2 | 4,407 | 1.2 | 4,238 | 1.2 | 4,633 | 1.2 |
| Sexual Assault | 4,683 | 1.2 | 4,545 | 1.2 | 4,077 | 1.1 | 3,724 | 1.0 | 4,075 | 1.1 |
| Other sexual offences | 2,508 | 0.6 | 2,425 | 0.6 | 2,164 | 0.6 | 2,098 | 0.6 | 2,089 | 0.5 |
| Major assault | 21,427 | 5.4 | 21,276 | 5.5 | 20,793 | 5.6 | 21,196 | 5.8 | 22,549 | 5.9 |
| Common assault | 42,943 | 10.8 | 41,652 | 10.8 | 39,491 | 10.7 | 40,656 | 11.1 | 42,989 | 11.3 |
| Uttering threats | 17,210 | 4.3 | 16,775 | 4.4 | 17,061 | 4.6 | 17,620 | 4.8 | 19,724 | 5.2 |
| Criminal harassment | 2,677 | 0.7 | 2,458 | 0.6 | 2,568 | 0.7 | 2,626 | 0.7 | 3,105 | 0.8 |
| Other crimes against the person | 2,608 | 0.7 | 2,661 | 0.7 | 2,454 | 0.7 | 2,578 | 0.7 | 2,677 | 0.7 |
| Crimes Against Property | 100,433 | 25.2 | 95,269 | 24.8 | 89,518 | 24.2 | 85,071 | 23.1 | 86,413 | 22.6 |
| Theft | 37,766 | 9.5 | 35,452 | 9.2 | 33,039 | 8.9 | 31,002 | 8.4 | 32,046 | 8.4 |
| Break and enter | 14,984 | 3.8 | 13,911 | 3.6 | 12,486 | 3.4 | 11,643 | 3.2 | 11,230 | 2.9 |
| Fraud | 20,194 | 5.1 | 19,365 | 5.0 | 18,234 | 4.9 | 17,599 | 4.8 | 17,313 | 4.5 |
| Mischief | 10,102 | 2.5 | 9,662 | 2.5 | 9,443 | 2.6 | 9,573 | 2.6 | 10,202 | 2.7 |
| Possess stolen property | 16,410 | 4.1 | 15,968 | 4.2 | 15,386 | 4.2 | 14,424 | 3.9 | 14,837 | 3.9 |
| Other property crimes | 977 | 0.2 | 911 | 0.2 | 930 | 0.3 | 830 | 0.2 | 785 | 0.2 |
| Administration of Justice | 57,013 | 14.3 | 60,034 | 15.6 | 60,455 | 16.3 | 64,144 | 17.4 | 67,644 | 17.7 |
| Fail to appear | 10,707 | 2.7 | 10,752 | 2.8 | 10,072 | 2.7 | 9,860 | 2.7 | 9,963 | 2.6 |
| Breach of probation | 15,716 | 3.9 | 18,237 | 4.7 | 19,287 | 5.2 | 20,729 | 5.6 | 21,874 | 5.7 |
| Unlawfully at large | 3,690 | 0.9 | 3,395 | 0.9 | 3,285 | 0.9 | 3,338 | 0.9 | 2,942 | 0.8 |
| Fail to comply with order | 24,355 | 6.1 | 25,225 | 6.6 | 25,614 | 6.9 | 27,886 | 7.6 | 30,656 | 8.0 |
| Other administration of justice | 2,545 | 0.6 | 2,425 | 0.6 | 2,197 | 0.6 | 2,331 | 0.6 | 2,209 | 0.6 |
| Other Criminal Code | 30,225 | 7.6 | 28,329 | 7.4 | 26,046 | 7.0 | 25,951 | 7.1 | 26,077 | 6.8 |
| Weapons | 5,670 | 1.4 | 5,538 | 1.4 | 5,041 | 1.4 | 4,903 | 1.3 | 5,195 | 1.4 |
| Prostitution | 4,084 | 1.0 | 4,131 | 1.1 | 3,379 | 0.9 | 2,765 | 0.8 | 2,250 | 0.6 |
| Disturbing the peace | 2,675 | 0.7 | 2,675 | 0.7 | 2,541 | 0.7 | 2,517 | 0.7 | 2,711 | 0.7 |
| Residual Criminal Code | 17,796 | 4.5 | 15,985 | 4.2 | 15,085 | 4.1 | 15,766 | 4.3 | 15,921 | 4.2 |
| Criminal Code Traffic | 65,206 | 16.4 | 58,962 | 15.3 | 55,521 | 15.0 | 52,847 | 14.4 | 54,291 | 14.2 |
| Impaired driving | 53,902 | 13.5 | 48,709 | 12.7 | 46,387 | 12.5 | 44,036 | 12.0 | 45,002 | 11.8 |
| Other Criminal Code traffic | 11,304 | 2.8 | 10,253 | 2.7 | 9,134 | 2.5 | 8,811 | 2.4 | 9,289 | 2.4 |
| Other Federal Statute Total | 45,667 | 11.5 | 44,548 | 11.6 | 44,522 | 12.0 | 44,465 | 12.1 | 45,071 | 11.8 |

¹ Revised figures for 1997/98, 1998/99, 1999/00, and 2000/01. Revisions were made to the ACCS counting procedures and offence classifications, and applications under CCC s.810, s.810.01, s.810.1, and s.810.2 (peace bond applications) were excluded. Overall, the revisions reduced the number of cases in 1997/98 (2.5%), 1998/99 (1.8%), 1999/00 (1.9%), and 2000/01 (2.0%). See methodology section for more information on the changes to ACCS counting procedures.

Notes: Due to rounding, percentages may not add to 100.

Superior court data was collected in Alberta from 1998/99, in Yukon from 1999/00, and in Prince Edward Island from 2000/01. The inclusion of superior court data significantly increased the number of homicide cases reported.

Due to changes in the data collection of drug offences since the introduction of the Controlled Drugs and Substances Act, (i.e., some drug offences under the new legislation were originally coded to "Residual federal statutes") totals for the four offence.

This table does not include data from New Brunswick, Manitoba, British Columbia, Northwest Territories, and Nunavut.

Source: Adult Criminal Court Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

Table 8

**Convicted cases by median prison and probation sentence, and fine amount,
Eight provinces and territories in Canada, 1997/98 to 2001/02**

| Offence Group | 1997/98 ¹ | | | 1998/99 ¹ | | | 1999/00 ¹ | | | 2000/01 ¹ | | | 2001/02 | | |
|------------------------------------|----------------------|------------------|----------------|----------------------|------------------|----------------|----------------------|------------------|----------------|----------------------|------------------|----------------|------------------|------------------|----------------|
| | Prison Probation | | Fine | Prison Probation | | Fine | Prison Probation | | Fine | Prison Probation | | Fine | Prison Probation | | Fine |
| | median (days) | median (days) | median (\$) | median (days) | median (days) | median (\$) | median (days) | median (days) | median (\$) | median (days) | median (days) | median (\$) | median (days) | median (days) | median (\$) |
| Total Offences | 40 | 365 | 300 | 45 | 365 | 300 | 30 | 365 | 330 | 30 | 365 | 500 | 30 | 365 | 500 |
| Criminal Code Total | 30 | 365 | 350 | 35 | 365 | 350 | 30 | 365 | 400 | 30 | 365 | 500 | 30 | 365 | 600 |
| Crimes Against the Person | 90 | 365 | 300 | 90 | 365 | 300 | 90 | 365 | 300 | 60 | 365 | 300 | 60 | 365 | 300 |
| Homicide | 2,555 | 730 | 300 | 2,190 | 730 | 525 | 2,190 | 725 | 500 | 2,780 | 540 | 700 | 1,825 | 630 | 2,000 |
| Attempted murder | 1,148 | 730 | 0 | 1,080 | 1,095 | 11,750 | 1,620 | 1,095 | 1,000 | 1,858 | 730 | 9,400 | 1,620 | 730 | 0 |
| Robbery | 540 | 730 | 325 | 540 | 730 | 300 | 540 | 730 | 300 | 540 | 730 | 400 | 540 | 730 | 300 |
| Sexual Assault | 270 | 730 | 500 | 283 | 730 | 500 | 270 | 730 | 500 | 360 | 720 | 500 | 300 | 720 | 575 |
| Other sexual offences | 270 | 730 | 500 | 270 | 730 | 400 | 270 | 730 | 500 | 360 | 730 | 500 | 360 | 730 | 650 |
| Major assault | 90 | 540 | 300 | 90 | 540 | 350 | 90 | 450 | 350 | 90 | 540 | 400 | 75 | 540 | 400 |
| Common assault | 30 | 365 | 300 | 30 | 365 | 300 | 30 | 365 | 300 | 30 | 365 | 300 | 30 | 365 | 300 |
| Uttering threats | 60 | 540 | 200 | 60 | 540 | 200 | 60 | 540 | 200 | 45 | 540 | 250 | 45 | 540 | 200 |
| Criminal harassment | 60 | 730 | 250 | 60 | 730 | 250 | 60 | 730 | 250 | 60 | 730 | 250 | 60 | 730 | 300 |
| Other crimes against the perso | 180 | 720 | 250 | 240 | 730 | 300 | 180 | 540 | 250 | 240 | 540 | 300 | 180 | 730 | 300 |
| Crimes Against Property | 60 | 365 | 200 | 60 | 365 | 200 | 60 | 365 | 200 | 60 | 365 | 250 | 60 | 365 | 250 |
| Theft | 30 | 365 | 200 | 30 | 365 | 200 | 30 | 365 | 200 | 30 | 365 | 200 | 30 | 365 | 200 |
| Break and enter | 180 | 720 | 300 | 180 | 540 | 300 | 180 | 540 | 300 | 180 | 540 | 350 | 180 | 540 | 350 |
| Fraud | 60 | 365 | 200 | 60 | 365 | 200 | 60 | 365 | 250 | 60 | 365 | 250 | 60 | 365 | 250 |
| Mischief | 30 | 365 | 200 | 30 | 365 | 200 | 30 | 360 | 200 | 30 | 360 | 200 | 30 | 360 | 200 |
| Possess stolen property | 60 | 365 | 300 | 60 | 365 | 300 | 60 | 365 | 300 | 60 | 365 | 300 | 60 | 365 | 300 |
| Other property crimes | 135 | 540 | 300 | 135 | 540 | 300 | 150 | 540 | 400 | 180 | 540 | 400 | 90 | 540 | 300 |
| Administration of Justice | 21 | 365 | 150 | 24 | 365 | 150 | 21 | 365 | 150 | 20 | 365 | 200 | 15 | 365 | 200 |
| Fail to appear | 15 | 365 | 150 | 15 | 365 | 150 | 15 | 365 | 150 | 15 | 365 | 150 | 14 | 365 | 150 |
| Breach of probation | 30 | 365 | 200 | 30 | 365 | 200 | 30 | 365 | 200 | 30 | 365 | 200 | 30 | 365 | 200 |
| Unlawfully at large | 30 | 365 | 200 | 30 | 365 | 250 | 30 | 365 | 200 | 30 | 365 | 250 | 30 | 365 | 250 |
| Fail to comply with order | 15 | 365 | 150 | 15 | 365 | 150 | 15 | 365 | 150 | 15 | 365 | 150 | 14 | 365 | 150 |
| Other administration of justice | 30 | 365 | 350 | 30 | 365 | 300 | 30 | 365 | 300 | 30 | 365 | 300 | 30 | 365 | 300 |
| Other Criminal Code | 30 | 365 | 200 | 30 | 365 | 200 | 30 | 365 | 200 | 30 | 365 | 250 | 40 | 365 | 250 |
| Weapons | 60 | 365 | 200 | 60 | 365 | 250 | 60 | 365 | 250 | 60 | 365 | 250 | 54 | 365 | 250 |
| Prostitution | 7 | 360 | 200 | 8 | 360 | 200 | 7 | 360 | 200 | 5 | 360 | 250 | 8 | 360 | 250 |
| Disturbing the peace | 10 | 360 | 175 | 14 | 360 | 200 | 10 | 360 | 200 | 10 | 360 | 200 | 10 | 360 | 200 |
| Residual Criminal Code | 45 | 365 | 250 | 60 | 365 | 250 | 60 | 365 | 250 | 45 | 365 | 250 | 50 | 365 | 250 |
| Criminal Code Traffic | 30 | 360 | 500 | 30 | 360 | 500 | 30 | 360 | 600 | 30 | 360 | 700 | 30 | 360 | 700 |
| Impaired driving | 30 | 360 | 500 | 30 | 360 | 500 | 30 | 360 | 600 | 30 | 360 | 700 | 30 | 360 | 700 |
| Other Criminal Code traffic | 45 | 360 | 500 | 45 | 360 | 500 | 45 | 360 | 500 | 45 | 360 | 500 | 42 | 360 | 500 |
| Other Federal Statute Total | 90 | 365 | 150 | 90 | 365 | 200 | 60 | 365 | 200 | 60 | 365 | 200 | 60 | 365 | 250 |
| Drug possession | 15 | 360 | 200 | 15 | 360 | 200 | 15 | 360 | 200 | 15 | 360 | 200 | 10 | 360 | 200 |
| Drug trafficking | 180 | 730 | 500 | 120 | 365 | 700 | 120 | 365 | 600 | 90 | 365 | 750 | 90 | 365 | 800 |
| Young Offenders Act | 15 | 360 | 200 | 30 | 360 | 200 | 30 | 360 | 200 | 21 | 360 | 200 | 15 | 360 | 200 |
| Residual federal statutes | 50 | 365 | 125 | 90 | 450 | 140 | 90 | 365 | 150 | 90 | 540 | 200 | 100 | 540 | 200 |

¹ Revised figures for 1997/98, 1998/99, 1999/00, and 2000/01. Revisions were made to the ACCS counting procedures and offence classifications, and applications under CCC s.810, s.810.01, s.810.1, and s.810.2 (peace bond applications) were excluded. Overall, the revisions reduced the number of cases in 1997/98 (2.5%), 1998/99 (1.8%), 1999/00 (1.9%), and 2000/01 (2.0%). See methodology section for more information on the changes to ACCS counting procedures.

Notes: Revised figures for 1997/98 and 1998/99. Revisions were made to the calculation of median prison sentence lengths in 1999/00 and the previous two years were recalculated using the same formula. Excludes cases where length of prison was not known.
Probation totals include mandatory probation for cases given a conditional discharge (CCCs.730(1)) or a suspended sentence (CCC s.731(1)(a)).
In Québec, most drug offences are recorded under residual federal statutes, resulting in an undercount of drug possession and drug trafficking cases and an overcount of residual federal statute cases.

This table does not include data from New Brunswick, Manitoba, British Columbia, Northwest Territories, and Nunavut.

Source: Adult Criminal Court Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics

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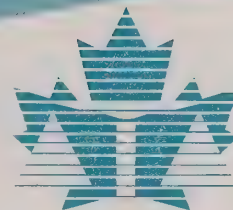
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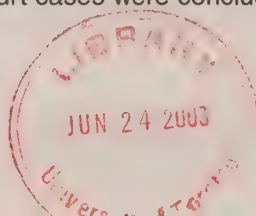


YOUTH COURT STATISTICS, 2001/02

by Jennifer Thomas

Highlights

- In 2001/02, 85,640 cases were processed in the youth courts of Canada. This is slightly less (2%) than the number of cases processed in 2000/01, but still 16% lower than in 1992/93.
- The number of *Crimes against property* cases heard in youth courts continued its downward trend, dropping 41% over the ten-year period of 1992/93 to 2001/02. However, the number of *Drug-related* cases is 215% higher than in 1992/93.
- Though the proportion of convicted youth cases receiving a sentence to secure custody gradually increased between 1992/93 and 2001/02 (from 12% of convicted cases to 15%), the average length of these sentences got shorter during the same period (from 94 days to 67 days).
- Five offences accounted for over half (54%) of the total youth court caseload in 2001/02. These were theft (15%), failure to comply with a disposition, YOA (12%), common assault (10%), break and enter (9%) and possession of stolen property (7%).
- In 2001/02, over half (53%) of the cases before youth courts involved older youth, aged 16 and 17. Youth aged 15 were involved in 21% of cases while younger adolescents aged 12 to 14 accounted for 24% of cases. The remaining 2% involved adults charged under the *Young Offenders Act*, and age unknown.
- Sixty-one percent of cases heard in youth court resulted in a finding of guilt in 2001/02.
- Probation was the most serious sentence in 54% of all guilty cases while custody (secure and open) was ordered 28% of the time.
- Accounting for multiple sentences in cases, probation is still the most common sentence, ordered in 66% of guilty cases in 2001/02. Probation was most often ordered for cases involving sexual assault (86%), drug trafficking (83%), robbery (80%), major assault (80%), and break and enter (80%).
- In 2001/02, the median sentence length for probation sentences was 360 days. Custodial sentences tend to be much shorter, with a median sentence length of 30 days for orders to secure custody, and 36 days for open custody.
- Almost 7 out of every 10 (69%) youth court cases were concluded within 4 months. Five percent of cases lasted longer than a year.

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Introduction

Providing effective treatment and rehabilitation of young offenders, and ensuring community safety are primary objectives of the youth justice system. The *Young Offenders Act* (YOA), proclaimed in 1984, introduced rights for adolescents previously guaranteed to adults only. It recognized the special needs that youth have as a result of their varying levels of maturity, the necessity for youth to accept responsibility for unlawful action and the right of society to protection from illegal behaviour. Seventeen years of experience later, new legislation was introduced to reform Canada's youth justice system and provide clearer legislative direction on youth crime. Having received Royal Assent in February, 2002, the *Youth Criminal Justice Act* (YCJA) replaced the *Young Offenders Act* on April 1, 2003.

This *Juristat* presents data obtained from the Youth Court Survey (YCS), which is conducted by the Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics (CCJS) in collaboration with provincial and territorial government departments responsible for youth courts. The YCS collects data from youth courts on persons aged 12 to 17 at the time of the offence, who appear in court for federal statute offences. In this report, federal statute offences include offences against the *Criminal Code*, *Controlled Drugs and Substances Act* (CDSA), *Young Offenders Act* (YOA), and all other federal statute offences. All youth courts in Canada have reported to the YCS since fiscal year 1991/92.

As not all youth crime is reported to police and not all youth in conflict with the law proceed to court, the YCS focuses on the court process and the response to youth crime rather than the prevalence of youth criminal activity.¹ Therefore these data should not be used as an indicator of total youth criminal activity.

Box 1 - Change made to case unit of analysis

Both the Youth Court Survey (YCS) and the Adult Criminal Court Survey (ACCS) use the case as the primary unit of analysis. In an effort to make the two surveys more consistent, the YCS adopted the ACCS definition of a case commencing in the 2001/02 reference year.

A case is now defined by both surveys as one or more charges against a person disposed of in court on the same day. Previously, case counts for the YCS were based on those charges against a young person that had the same day of first appearance.

This change has produced case counts that are slightly lower than those previously released in *Juristats* and other YCS reports. However, trend data presented in this *Juristat* are based on the new definition to ensure data comparability. Cases are still presented in terms of their most serious charge, as described in the Methodology section.

Ten-Year Trends

Cases before youth courts decreasing

The 85,640 youth court cases processed in 2001/02 represent a slight decrease (2%) from 2000/01. The case volume has been steadily declining over the past ten years (with the exception of a slight increase in 1997/98) (Table 1). The number of cases heard in Canadian youth courts in 2001/02 was 16% lower than in 1992/93.

Marked drop in the number of *Crimes against property* cases

The decline in overall youth court caseload is primarily due to the steady decline in the number of *Crimes against property* cases. The 33,086 *Crimes against property* cases in 2001/02 was 41% lower than the caseload for this category of offences in 1992/93 (Figure 1). More specifically, there have been notable decreases in caseloads for several major offence groups: break and enter (-50%), theft (-41%), and possession of stolen property (-40%).

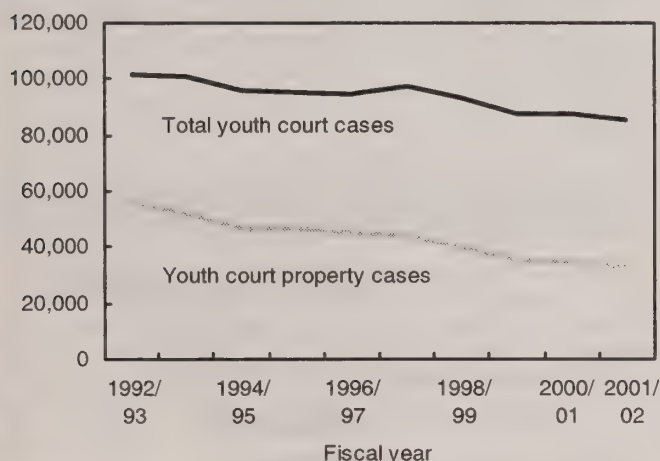
¹ For further information about charges laid by the police, see Savoie, J., (2002).

The number of cases involving *Crimes against the person* (22,510) in 2001/02 was fairly consistent with the number in 2000/01 (1% fewer). However, this is still 16% higher than in 1992/93. The increase in the overall number of cases involving *Crimes against the person* was primarily due to the increased number of cases involving uttering threats, which went from 1,434 cases in 1992/93 to 3,636 cases in 2001/02 (154% higher).

Figure 1

The number of crimes against property cases continues to steadily decrease

Number of cases



Source: Youth Court Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

In 2001/02, there were 10,414 cases related to offences under the *Young Offenders Act*. This represents a slightly smaller caseload than in 2000/01 (-3%), however it is 33% higher than in 1992/93.

Most notable, however, is the 215% increase in the number of *Drug-related* cases over the ten-year period (from 1,924 cases in 1992/93 to 6,058 in 2001/02). Drug possession and trafficking cases increased 232% and 185%, respectively since 1992/93.

Rate of youth charged by police increased slightly

Youth court caseloads reflect police charging practices. That is, the composition and distribution of offences appearing in youth court are largely determined by the incidents that come to the attention of the police and result in formal charges. However, due to post-charge alternative measures programs and pre-court diversion programs, some young offenders are diverted away from the criminal justice system. In 2001, the rate of youth per 100,000 aged 12 to 17 charged with criminal offences increased slightly (1%) for the second year in a row,² while the youth court case rate declined 3% from 2000/01.

Proportion of convicted youth cases sentenced to secure custody has been gradually increasing

Overall, the relative distribution of convicted youth cases by sentence type showed some stability between 1992/93 and 2001/02. Worth noting, however, is the gradual increase in the proportion of convicted cases sentenced to secure custody over the ten-year reference period (Table 2). In 1992/93, 12% of youth case convictions received a sentence to secure custody. In 2001/02, the proportion was 15%.

Despite the increase in the proportion of secure custody sentences, the average sentence length has been getting shorter (Figure 2). In 1992/93, the average length of a secure custody sentence was 94 days. After 10 years of fairly steady declines, the average sentence length for secure custody was 67 days in 2001/02.

The average length of sentence to open custody has also been getting shorter. In 1992/93, the average open custody sentence was 87 days, compared to 70 days in 2001/02.

In contrast, youth probation sentences are getting longer, moving from 325 days to 368 days between 1992/93 and 2001/02. The average fine is also getting higher. Despite some minor fluctuations during the ten-year period, the average fine imposed on youth increased from \$157 in 1992/93 to \$207 in 2001/02 (Table 3).

² For further information on the rate of youth charged by the police, see Savoie, J., (2002).

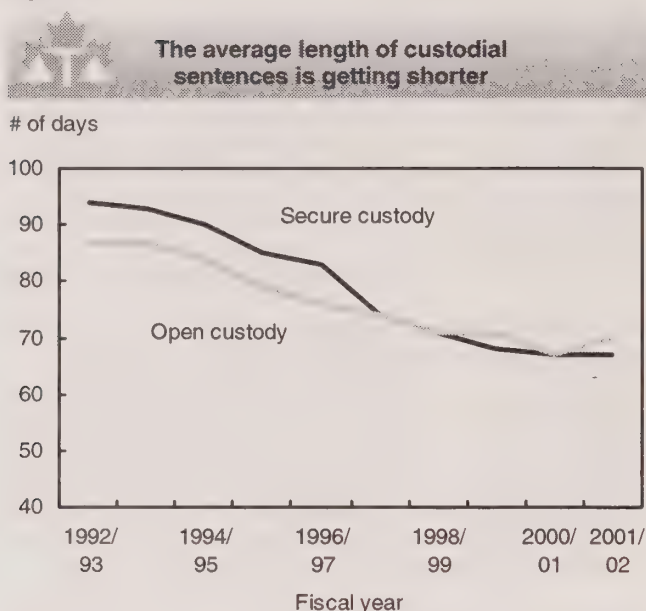
Box 2 - Youth and Youth Crime in Context

- Population – 2001¹
 - total Canadian population was 31.1 million with 2.47 million youth aged 12 to 17 years (8% of total)
 - over the next decade, using an assumption of medium growth, the youth population aged 14 to 17 is expected to increase slightly until 2006, and then decline.
- Persons charged by police in 2001²
 - 501,016 adults and youth were charged with federal offences, excluding traffic crimes
 - 102,313 (20%) of these were youth
- Cases processed in youth court, 2001/02
 - 85,640 cases were heard in youth courts in 2001/02
 - this represents a drop of 16% from 1992/93
- Convictions in youth court, 2001/02
 - 51,952 cases (61%) resulted in a conviction in 2001/02
 - this represents a 2% drop from 1992/93 when it was 63%

¹ Postcensal estimates as at July 1st, 2001, Demography Division, Statistics Canada.

² Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, 2001, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

Figure 2



Source: Youth Court Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

Comparisons among the provinces and territories

Differences across the country in the reporting of criminal incidents to police, in procedures and eligibility requirements for police diversion and alternative measures programs, and differences in provincial policy directing Crown discretion will influence the volume and characteristics of cases heard in youth courts. For example, Alternative Measures programs, intended to be alternatives to formal judicial proceedings for youth, differ among the jurisdictions with regard to eligibility criteria (e.g., they may be restricted to first-time offenders), timing (i.e., pre-charge or post-charge) and coverage (e.g., they commonly involve less serious crimes only). Pre-charge screening by the Crown is mandatory in New Brunswick, Quebec and British Columbia. Processes such as these serve to keep less serious cases out of the court system and reduce court workload. These factors should be considered when making inter-jurisdictional comparisons.

The national rate of youth court cases shows a gradual decline from 441 cases per 10,000 youth in 1992/93 to 347 in 2001/02 (Table 4). Generally steady declines over the past ten years were found in British Columbia (-48%), Alberta (-44%), Manitoba (-35%), Prince Edward Island (-33%) and Ontario (-20%). In most other jurisdictions, however, the rate tended to fluctuate annually with no discernible pattern. With the exception of New Brunswick, Quebec and Saskatchewan, the youth court case rates were lower in 2001/02 for all jurisdictions than in 1992/93. However, Quebec remains the jurisdiction with the lowest per capita rate of youth appearing in court (184 per 10,000 youth).

Case Characteristics

Composition of cases

In 2001/02, the types of cases processed in youth courts most often involved *Crimes against property* (39%) and *Crimes against the person* (26%). Less frequent were cases involving offences under the *Young Offenders Act* (YOA) (12%), offences against the *Administration of Justice* (9%), *Drug-related offences* (7%), *Other Criminal Code offences* (5%), *Criminal Code Traffic* (1%), and *Other federal statute offences* (less than 1%) (Table 5).

Five offences accounted for over half of the total caseload

As Figure 3 illustrates, a very small number of offences accounted for a large proportion of the caseload. Together, five offences represented over half (54%) of the caseload.

Figure 3



Source: Youth Court Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

Three of the five most frequent offences were *Crimes against property*: theft accounted for 15% of the total caseload, while break and enter accounted for 9% and possession of stolen property, 7%. The other most frequent types of cases before youth courts involved failure to comply with a disposition (YOA) (12%) and common assault,³ which accounted for 10% of the total number of cases.⁴

³ "Common assault" refers to the least serious form of assault that includes pushing, slapping, punching and face-to-face verbal threats.

⁴ Totals may not add to 100% due to rounding.

Common assaults most frequent crime against the person

Common assaults accounted for 39% of all *Crimes against the person* followed by major assault (22%),⁵ uttering threats (16%), robbery (12%) and sexual assault (5%). Murder, manslaughter and attempted murder cases together accounted for less than one-half of one percent of *Crimes against the person* cases heard in youth courts. There were 31 cases of homicide and 47 cases of attempted murder in 2001/02.

Half of youth court cases involved 16 and 17-year olds

Sixteen- and 17-year-olds appear more often in youth court than younger accused. In 2001/02, 16-year-olds accounted for 26% of cases and 17-year-olds made up 28%. Cases involving drug offences implicated a high proportion of older youth, with 16 and 17 year-olds comprising almost 7 out of every 10 (69%) of the 6,058 cases in 2001/02. Accused persons aged 15 appeared in 21% of all cases, while those aged 12, 13 and 14 showed proportionately less involvement, accounting for 3%, 7% and 14% of cases, respectively (Table 6).

Males accounted for eight in ten youth court cases

Males accounted for 78% of youth court cases and they predominated in all age groups. While the proportion of cases against males increased with age, cases against 15- and 16-year-old females accounted for the largest proportion of cases against females (24% each). The greatest difference between the sexes was for 17-year-olds, where accused males at this age accounted for 30% of all male cases, while 17-year-old females accounted for 21% of female cases.

Decisions in Youth Courts

Six out of ten youth court cases resulted in a finding of guilt

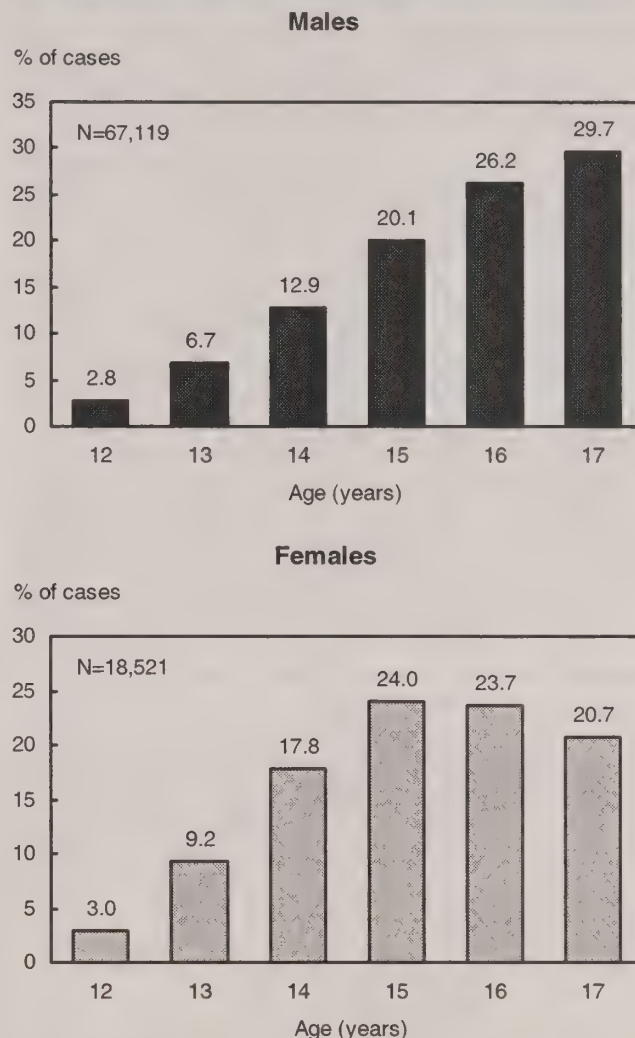
Cases resulting in a finding of guilt for at least one charge accounted for 61% of cases completed in youth court in 2001/02 (Table 7). Twenty-six percent of cases were withdrawn or dismissed. Proceedings were stayed in 12% of cases, and 1% resulted in findings of not guilty.

Revisions to the YOA in 1995 made transfers to adult court the standard response for the most serious violent crime cases involving 16 and 17-year olds, unless otherwise ruled by the court. This provision applies to murder (first or second degree), manslaughter, attempted murder and aggravated sexual assault. For these offences, the onus is on the accused to make an application to have the case heard in youth court. For other crimes, the Crown or defence counsel may apply for transfer to adult court. The condition stipulated in the Act for these transfers specifies a minimum age requirement of 14 years. Transfers to adult court accounted for one-tenth of one percent of the 2001/02 caseload (48 cases).

Of the 48 cases transferred to adult court in 2001/02, the majority involved *Crimes against the person* (30). Of these 30 cases, half were for either robbery (9) or sexual assault (6).

Figure 4

The proportion of caseload increases with age for males while female caseload declines after 16 years of age



The proportion of guilty cases varies considerably from one jurisdiction to another

The proportion of cases resulting in a conviction ranged from 38% in the Yukon to 87% in New Brunswick (Table 7). There are several possible factors that influence variations in conviction rates. First, some jurisdictions use diversion programs to a greater extent, which affects the number and

⁵ "Major assault" refers to the more serious forms of assault including assault with a weapon, aggravated assault, assaulting a police officer, and unlawfully causing bodily harm.

types of cases that proceed to court. Secondly, the use of stays and withdrawals varies across the country. Cases that are stayed or withdrawn are often indicative of charges set aside pending completion of alternative measures programs, diversion programs, or the systematic use of these decisions for administrative purposes. For example, 61% of cases were stayed or withdrawn in the Yukon, whereas 12% were terminated this way in New Brunswick. Thirdly, the use of pre-charge screening by the Crown may also affect the percentage of convictions through increased vetting of charges.

The proportion of guilty verdicts also varied among offence categories. Cases involving *Criminal Code Traffic* offences had the highest proportion of convictions (71%), while *Drug-related* offence cases recorded the lowest proportion (54%). The lower conviction rate of *Drug-related* offence cases can be explained by the higher proportion of these cases resulting in a stay or withdrawal (e.g., 44% for *Drug-related* offences, compared to 27% for *Criminal Code Traffic* offences).

Sentencing in Youth Court

Some factors considered by judges in sentencing include the type of offence committed, the circumstances in which the offence was committed and the criminal history of the offender. In the case of a custody sentence under section 24(1) of the YOA, "the protection of society" and "the needs and circumstances of the young person" are also considered. Sentencing data are provided in this report in terms of all sentences imposed for a case except for data in Box 3, where only the most serious sentence imposed in a case is shown.

| Box 3 - Convicted Cases by Most Serious Sentence ¹ , 2001/02 | | |
|---|-----------------|------------|
| | Number of cases | % of cases |
| Secure Custody | 7,720 | 15 |
| Open Custody | 6,735 | 13 |
| Probation | 27,976 | 54 |
| Fine | 3,072 | 6 |
| Other sentences | 6,449 | 12 |
| Total Convicted Cases | 51,952 | 100 |

¹ See Methodology section for the definition of most serious sentence.
Source: Youth Court Survey, 2001/02, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

Probation ordered in youth cases more than any other type of sentence

In 2001/02, probation was ordered in 66% of all convicted cases, far more than any other type of sentence (Table 8). Community service was the second most frequently ordered type of sentence, ordered in 27% of convicted cases. Overall, a sentence of secure custody was imposed in 15% of convicted cases, while another 14% of cases received a sentence of open custody. A fairly high proportion of convicted cases (31%) received "other sentences", which comprise the following: compensation, pay purchaser, compensation in kind, restitution, prohibition, seizure or forfeiture, conditional discharge, absolute discharge or some other sentence.⁶

Probation very likely for convictions of some offences

Probation was most often ordered for cases involving sexual assault (86%), drug trafficking (83%), robbery (80%), major assault (80%), and break and enter (80%). Cases where a youth was convicted of being unlawfully at large were least likely to result in a probation sentence (13%).

Overall, probation was ordered most frequently for convicted cases involving *Crimes against the person* (79%) and *Crimes against property* (72%). By comparison, only 38% of convicted cases involving offences against the *Administration of Justice* resulted in a probation sentence.

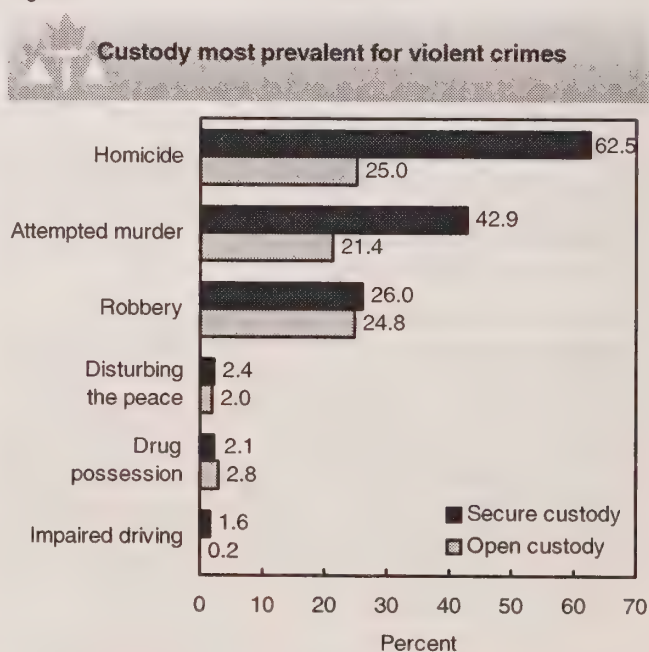
Most probation terms are 12 months or less

Under the YOA, youth courts may sentence a young offender to probation for a maximum of two years. In 2001/02, the median sentence length for probation sentences was 360 days. Of the 34,083 cases resulting in a term of probation, 18% were for a period of 6 months or less, 57% ranged from greater than 6 months and up to 12 months, and 24% were for more than 12 months.

Custodial sentences most prevalent for violent crimes

The use of custody orders is most prevalent for *Crimes against the person* (Figure 5). For example, in 2001/02, 63% of convicted homicide cases resulted in a sentence of secure custody and 25% in open custody. Secure custody was ordered in 43% of attempted murder cases, while 21% of these cases resulted in a sentence of open custody.

Figure 5



Source: Youth Court Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

⁶ Percentages do not add to 100% because multiple sentences for a case are included.

Robbery cases also frequently resulted in a custody sentence, with 26% receiving secure custody and 25% getting open custody (Table 8).

Alternatively, offences such as disturbing the peace, impaired driving, and drug possession were less likely to result in a custody sentence (Figure 5).

The use of custody varies widely across Canada

The use of secure custody ranged from 2% of cases with convictions in Nova Scotia to 32% in the Yukon (Table 9). The proportion of cases with convictions resulting in open custody was highest in Nova Scotia (29%) and lowest in Alberta (8%). This variation in the use of custody may reflect the influence of several factors. For example, the severity of offences being sentenced can vary from jurisdiction to jurisdiction, rates of recidivism can be different, and the mix of available custodial facilities can vary.

Lengths of sentences for custody

Under the YOA, the maximum length for secure or open custody sentences is generally two years. However, this sentence can be three years if the crime would normally carry a maximum penalty of life imprisonment in adult court. In addition, the most serious crimes (first or second degree murder) carry higher sentences. First-degree murder carries a maximum custodial sentence of six years, followed by four years of conditional supervision. Second-degree murder carries a maximum four-year custodial term followed by three years of conditional supervision. However, not all murder cases first heard in youth court are sentenced in youth court as the YOA transfer provisions to adult court apply.

Half of custodial sentences are less than one month

Of the 15,059 cases resulting in a custodial sentence (open and secure) in 2001/02, 54% were for terms of less than one month. Twenty-six percent were for terms of 1 to 3 months, 14% were for greater than 3 months and up to a 6 month term, and 6% were for terms longer than 6 months.⁷ The median sentence length for cases resulting in secure custody was 30 days, while for open custody, it was 36 days. The average sentence length was 67 days for secure custody and 70 days for open custody.

Fines and other types of sentences used especially for traffic offences

Fines and 'other' sentences were imposed most often in case convictions involving *Criminal Code* Traffic offences, with 49% of these cases receiving a fine, and 73% receiving some type of sentence other than custody, probation, fine or community service. Within this category, impaired driving cases had the highest proportion of fines imposed (68%)(Table 8).

One-half of fines are \$150 or less

Under the YOA, a young offender may be ordered to pay a fine not exceeding \$1,000. In 2001/02, a fine was ordered in 3,719 cases or 7% of convicted cases. Fines of \$100 or less were most often ordered (43%), followed by fines from \$101 to \$300 (41%), \$301 to \$500 (10%), and over \$500 (7%). The median dollar amount of fines was \$150.

Case Processing

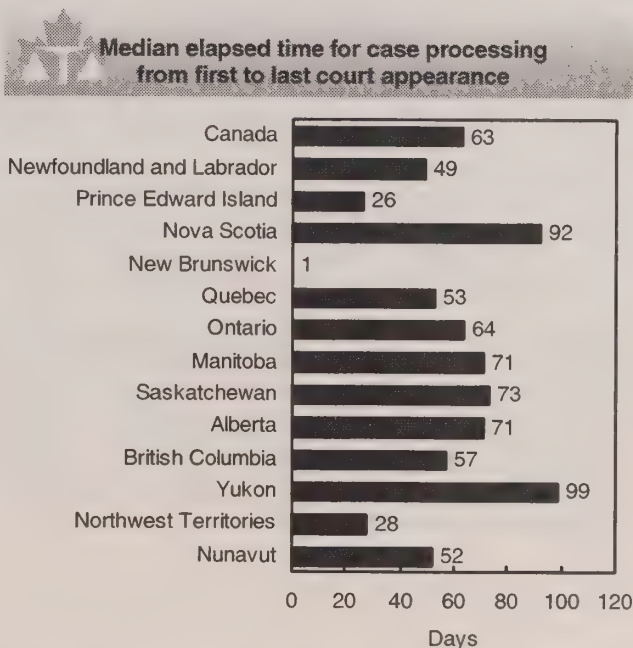
One-half of cases processed in two months or less

In 2001/02, almost seven out of every ten cases (69%) were processed in four months or less (from the time of the youth's first court appearance to the date of decision or sentencing), with only 5% of cases taking longer than a year. In fact, 17% of cases were completed at the first court appearance. The median elapsed time for all cases was 63 days. The Yukon had the longest median elapsed time at 99 days, followed by Nova Scotia (92 days), Saskatchewan (73 days), and Alberta and Manitoba (both 71 days). New Brunswick had the shortest median elapsed time (1 day), meaning that over half the cases were completed on the first appearance (Figure 6).

Box 4 - Sentence Review

The length of sentence ordered by the court may be subject to revision under conditions stipulated in the *Young Offenders Act*. The court must review all custodial sentences after one year and may reduce the term or type of disposition at that time. Otherwise, the initial sentence ordered is to be served. There is no parole or statutory release in the *Young Offenders Act*. Sentences are subject to review upon request by the parent or young offender, although permission must be granted by the court if less than six months have been served. The principal correctional service administrator (Provincial Director) may ask the court for a review hearing if a revision to the sentence would be in the youth's best interest.

Figure 6



Source: Youth Court Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

⁷ The YCS cannot distinguish between consecutive and concurrent sentences and does not include sentencing revisions made under review by the court. In multiple sentence cases, for example, the sentence length may be underestimated because of the assumption of concurrent sentences for all charges and may not reflect actual time ordered.

In 2001/02, 48% of cases involved only one charge, 24% had two charges, 11% three charges and 17% had more than three charges. The number of charges did not seem to have a significant impact on the median amount of time taken to process a case in court.

No matter the number of charges, *Crimes against the person* cases tended to take longer to complete, with a median completion time of 100 days. The shortest case completions were in cases where the most serious offence was against the *Administration of Justice*, with a median completion time of 22 days.

Methodology

The Youth Court Survey (YCS) is a census of *Criminal Code* and *Other federal statute* offences heard in youth court for persons aged 12 to 17 years (up to the 18th birthday) at the time of the offence. Every effort is made by respondents and the Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics (CCJS) to ensure complete survey coverage.

The primary unit of analysis is the case, defined as one or more charges against a young person disposed of on the same day. Since a case is identified by a single charge, in cases with more than one charge it is necessary to determine the charge that will represent the case. In multiple-charge cases, the "most serious decision" rule is applied. Decisions are ranked from the most to least serious as follows: transfer to adult court; guilty; other decision (e.g., not fit to stand trial); stay of proceedings; charge withdrawn; or transfer to other jurisdiction; and not guilty or charge dismissed. In cases where two or more offences have resulted in the same decision (e.g., guilty), the "most serious offence" rule is applied. All charges are ranked according to a seriousness scale based on the average length of prison sentence imposed on convicted charges between 1994/95 and 2000/01. If two charges have equal results according to this criterion, information about the sentence type (e.g., prison, probation and fine) is considered. If the representative charge for the case still cannot be determined, the magnitude of the sentence is considered.

The most serious sentence is determined by the effect that the sentence has on the young person. Sentences are ordered from most to least significant as follows: secure custody, open custody, probation, fine, compensation, pay purchaser (a dollar amount paid back to the innocent purchaser of stolen goods), compensation in kind, community service order, restitution, prohibition/seizure/forfeiture, other sentences, conditional discharge and absolute discharge.

The reader is advised that the use of the decisions 'stay' and 'withdrawn' for administrative purposes (e.g., to reduce charges or to correct details on an information) vary by jurisdiction. To terminate and recommence a case for administrative purposes has been found to inflate the total number of cases reported to the Youth Court Survey. Ontario, Manitoba, Alberta, British Columbia and Yukon are most affected by this practice. Consequently the reader is encouraged, where possible, to analyze cases with guilty findings (convictions) to increase comparability among the jurisdictions.

Differences in data over time and across jurisdictions result from a number of factors that reflect how the YOA has been implemented. Pre-court screening procedures may affect the number of youth appearing in court. The Crown Attorney, for example, may decide not to proceed with a charge, or the initial charge may be changed. Pre-charge screening by the Crown is mandatory in New Brunswick, Quebec and British Columbia. A youth may also be diverted from the court process into an Alternative Measures program (either before or after police lay charges), a police or Crown diversion program.

Alternative Measures (AM) programs are generally reserved for first-time offenders and are often limited to specific types of less serious offences, although young offenders committing more serious offences can be considered for acceptance in the program in most jurisdictions. Except for New Brunswick, Ontario and Yukon, all AM programs are combined pre- and post-charge programs where the preferences, and the general practices, are to refer youth at the pre-charge stage (i.e. before charges are laid). In New Brunswick, the AM program operates at the pre-charge stage only. In Ontario, youth are only referred to AM programs at the post-charge stage (i.e. after charges are laid). In Yukon, the general practice is to refer youth to the AM program at the post-charge stage, although, on occasion, they may be referred at the pre-charge stage. Alternative measures cases are excluded from the Youth Court Survey data either in the jurisdiction or at the CCJS, if they are identified. Nevertheless, differences in procedures and eligibility requirements of these programs influence the volume and characteristics of cases heard in youth courts.

References

Savoie, J. "Crime Statistics in Canada, 2001" *Juristat*. Catalogue no. 85-002-XIE, Vol.22, no. 6. Ottawa: July, 2002. Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics.

Youth Court Survey, 2001/02, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

Table 1

Cases heard in Youth Courts, Canada, 1992/93 to 2001/02

| Offence category | 1992/93 | 1993/94 | 1994/95 | 1995/96 | 1996/97 | 1997/98 | 1998/99 | 1999/00 | 2000/01 | 2001/02 | % change from 1992/93 to 2001/02 |
|---------------------------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---|
| Total cases | | | | | | | | | | | |
| number | 101,691 | 101,144 | 96,247 | 95,462 | 94,931 | 97,161 | 92,867 | 87,600 | 87,617 | 85,640 | |
| % change in the number of cases* | -4 | -1 | -5 | -1 | -1 | 2 | -4 | -6 | 0 | -2 | -16 |
| Crimes against the person | | | | | | | | | | | |
| number | 19,402 | 21,087 | 21,043 | 21,082 | 21,485 | 22,935 | 23,204 | 22,432 | 22,674 | 22,510 | |
| % change in the number of cases* | 8 | 9 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 7 | 1 | -3 | 1 | -1 | 16 |
| Crimes against property | | | | | | | | | | | |
| number | 55,892 | 52,288 | 46,921 | 46,345 | 45,194 | 43,749 | 40,148 | 35,518 | 34,694 | 33,086 | |
| % change in the number of cases* | -9 | -6 | -10 | -1 | -2 | -3 | -8 | -12 | -2 | -5 | -41 |
| Administration of Justice | | | | | | | | | | | |
| number | 8,013 | 8,118 | 8,105 | 8,213 | 7,983 | 8,491 | 8,154 | 7,551 | 7,917 | 7,698 | |
| % change in the number of cases* | -1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | -3 | 6 | -4 | -7 | 5 | -3 | -4 |
| Other Criminal Code offences | | | | | | | | | | | |
| number | 6,519 | 6,522 | 6,200 | 5,757 | 5,223 | 5,120 | 4,791 | 4,566 | 4,506 | 4,525 | |
| % change in the number of cases* | -1 | 0 | -5 | -7 | -9 | -2 | -6 | -5 | -1 | 0 | -31 |
| Criminal Code Traffic | | | | | | | | | | | |
| number | 1,712 | 1,527 | 1,406 | 1,370 | 1,306 | 1,411 | 1,240 | 1,238 | 1,166 | 1,211 | |
| % change in the number of cases* | -10 | -11 | -8 | -3 | -5 | 8 | -12 | 0 | -6 | 4 | -29 |
| Drug-related offences | | | | | | | | | | | |
| number | 1,924 | 2,525 | 3,757 | 3,881 | 4,249 | 4,071 | 4,300 | 4,956 | 5,767 | 6,058 | |
| % change in the number of cases* | 0 | 31 | 49 | 3 | 9 | -4 | 6 | 15 | 16 | 5 | 215 |
| YOA offences | | | | | | | | | | | |
| number | 7,829 | 8,756 | 8,641 | 8,596 | 9,219 | 11,142 | 10,916 | 11,217 | 10,766 | 10,414 | |
| % change in the number of cases* | 2 | 12 | -1 | -1 | 7 | 21 | -2 | 3 | -4 | -3 | 33 |
| Other federal statute offences | | | | | | | | | | | |
| number | 400 | 321 | 174 | 218 | 272 | 242 | 114 | 122 | 127 | 138 | |
| % change in the number of cases* | 27 | -20 | -46 | 25 | 25 | -11 | -53 | 7 | 4 | 9 | -66 |

* refers to the previous year

... not applicable

Source: Youth Court Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

Table 2

Youth Case Convictions, by Type of Sentence, Canada, 1992/93 to 2001/02

| | Convicted cases (#) | Type of sentence ¹ (%) | | | | | |
|---------|---------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------|-----------|------|-------------------|--------------------|
| | | Secure custody | Open custody | Probation | Fine | Community service | Other ² |
| 2001/02 | 51,952 | 15 | 14 | 66 | 7 | 27 | 31 |
| 2000/01 | 53,283 | 15 | 16 | 65 | 8 | 27 | 26 |
| 1999/00 | 55,534 | 15 | 15 | 64 | 8 | 29 | 38 |
| 1998/99 | 59,385 | 15 | 16 | 65 | 8 | 30 | 27 |
| 1997/98 | 60,713 | 15 | 17 | 64 | 8 | 33 | 19 |
| 1996/97 | 60,188 | 14 | 16 | 68 | 7 | 33 | 21 |
| 1995/96 | 58,757 | 13 | 17 | 65 | 8 | 32 | 18 |
| 1994/95 | 60,631 | 14 | 17 | 65 | 9 | 31 | 18 |
| 1993/94 | 63,773 | 13 | 16 | 64 | 10 | 30 | 18 |
| 1992/93 | 63,646 | 12 | 15 | 49 | 10 | 29 | 23 |

¹ 'Type of Sentence' includes all sentences that were handed out for a particular case, therefore the percentages do not add to 100%.

² 'Other' includes compensation, pay purchaser, compensation in kind, restitution, prohibition, seizure, forfeiture, conditional discharge, absolute discharge, essays, apologies and counselling programs.

Source: Youth Court Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

Table 3

Mean (average) and median length or amount of sentence, convicted cases, Canada, 1992/93 to 2001/02

| | Mean | | | | Median | | | |
|---------|----------------|--------------|-----------|------|----------------|--------------|-----------|------|
| | Secure custody | Open custody | Probation | Fine | Secure custody | Open custody | Probation | Fine |
| | # of days | | | \$ | # of days | | | \$ |
| 2001/02 | 67 | 70 | 368 | 207 | 30 | 36 | 360 | 150 |
| 2000/01 | 67 | 67 | 367 | 208 | 30 | 30 | 360 | 150 |
| 1999/00 | 68 | 71 | 362 | 193 | 30 | 40 | 360 | 150 |
| 1998/99 | 71 | 71 | 363 | 181 | 30 | 42 | 360 | 125 |
| 1997/98 | 74 | 74 | 358 | 185 | 30 | 45 | 360 | 150 |
| 1996/97 | 83 | 76 | 368 | 169 | 30 | 45 | 360 | 100 |
| 1995/96 | 85 | 79 | 364 | 180 | 35 | 50 | 360 | 128 |
| 1994/95 | 90 | 84 | 361 | 180 | 40 | 60 | 360 | 125 |
| 1993/94 | 93 | 87 | 354 | 171 | 45 | 60 | 360 | 100 |
| 1992/93 | 94 | 87 | 325 | 157 | 45 | 60 | 360 | 100 |

Source: Youth Court Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

Table 4

Cases before Youth Courts, Rate per 10,000 Youths, 1992/93 to 2001/02

| | Rate of cases per 10,000 youths | | | | | | | | | | % change from 2000/01 | % change from 1992/93 |
|---------------------------|---------------------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| | 1992/93 | 1993/94 | 1994/95 | 1995/96 | 1996/97 | 1997/98 | 1998/99 | 1999/00 | 2000/01 | 2001/02 | | |
| Canada | 441 | 434 | 408 | 400 | 393 | 398 | 379 | 357 | 357 | 347 | -3 | -21 |
| Newfoundland and Labrador | 382 | 336 | 332 | 286 | 480 | 385 | 370 | 324 | 323 | 379 | 17 | -1 |
| Prince Edward Island | 363 | 387 | 313 | 248 | 332 | 278 | 246 | 238 | 145 | 244 | 68 | -33 |
| Nova Scotia | 369 | 381 | 402 | 434 | 433 | 410 | 404 | 366 | 359 | 339 | -6 | -8 |
| New Brunswick | 295 | 350 | 358 | 373 | 336 | 331 | 300 | 338 | 309 | 306 | -1 | 4 |
| Quebec | 171 | 169 | 180 | 167 | 184 | 195 | 188 | 188 | 175 | 184 | 5 | 8 |
| Ontario | 499 | 510 | 470 | 471 | 441 | 441 | 419 | 386 | 419 | 399 | -5 | -20 |
| Manitoba | 721 | 763 | 719 | 648 | 591 | 620 | 632 | 521 | 493 | 466 | -6 | -35 |
| Saskatchewan | 744 | 735 | 690 | 728 | 737 | 796 | 682 | 746 | 761 | 789 | 4 | 6 |
| Alberta | 779 | 725 | 644 | 620 | 588 | 531 | 535 | 474 | 452 | 433 | -4 | -44 |
| British Columbia | 423 | 353 | 323 | 299 | 296 | 352 | 306 | 303 | 252 | 220 | -13 | -48 |
| Yukon | 916 | 1,107 | 1,091 | 1,704 | 1,432 | 1,386 | 1,114 | 970 | 965 | 769 | -20 | -16 |
| Northwest Territories* | 910 | 970 | 1,468 | 1,293 | 1,354 | 758 | 889 | 903 | 692 | 883 | 28 | ... |
| Nunavut* ¹ | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 386 | 659 | 644 | -2 | ... |

... not applicable

* Due to the creation of Nunavut from the Northwest Territories, data collected prior to 1999/00 cannot be compared to data collected after that date for these jurisdictions.

¹ Reliable data are not available for the first year of reporting in Nunavut.

Source: Youth Court Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

Table 5

Youth Court Charges and Cases, Canada, 2001/02

| | Charges | | Cases | |
|--|----------------|--------------|---------------|--------------|
| | # | % | # | % |
| TOTAL OFFENCES | 206,647 | 100.0 | 85,640 | 100.0 |
| Crimes Against the Person | 37,168 | 18.0 | 22,510 | 26.3 |
| Homicide | 37 | 0.0 | 31 | 0.0 |
| Attempted murder | 73 | 0.0 | 47 | 0.1 |
| Robbery | 4,573 | 2.2 | 2,789 | 3.3 |
| Sexual assault | 2,139 | 1.0 | 1,103 | 1.3 |
| Other sexual offences | 1,226 | 0.6 | 595 | 0.7 |
| Major assault | 7,498 | 3.6 | 4,948 | 5.8 |
| Common assault | 13,546 | 6.6 | 8,708 | 10.2 |
| Uttering threats | 6,634 | 3.2 | 3,636 | 4.2 |
| Criminal harassment | 423 | 0.2 | 202 | 0.2 |
| Other crimes against persons | 1,019 | 0.5 | 451 | 0.5 |
| Crimes Against Property | 78,230 | 37.9 | 33,086 | 38.6 |
| Theft | 28,770 | 13.9 | 13,103 | 15.3 |
| Break and enter | 14,512 | 7.0 | 7,522 | 8.8 |
| Fraud | 4,305 | 2.1 | 1,578 | 1.8 |
| Mischief | 14,398 | 7.0 | 4,128 | 4.8 |
| Possess stolen property | 15,244 | 7.4 | 6,243 | 7.3 |
| Other property crimes | 1,001 | 0.5 | 512 | 0.6 |
| Administration of Justice | 27,486 | 13.3 | 7,698 | 9.0 |
| Fail to appear | 3,209 | 1.6 | 1,070 | 1.2 |
| Breach of probation | 914 | 0.4 | 286 | 0.3 |
| Unlawfully at large | 1,895 | 0.9 | 1,249 | 1.5 |
| Fail to comply with order | 20,606 | 10.0 | 4,685 | 5.5 |
| Other admin. justice | 862 | 0.4 | 408 | 0.5 |
| Other Criminal Code | 13,867 | 6.7 | 4,525 | 5.3 |
| Weapons | 4,654 | 2.3 | 1,518 | 1.8 |
| Prostitution | 68 | 0.0 | 24 | 0.0 |
| Disturbing the peace | 1,038 | 0.5 | 424 | 0.5 |
| Residual Criminal Code | 8,107 | 3.9 | 2,559 | 3.0 |
| Total Criminal Code (excluding traffic) | 156,751 | 75.9 | 67,819 | 79.2 |
| Criminal Code Traffic | 3,461 | 1.7 | 1,211 | 1.4 |
| Impaired driving | 1,722 | 0.8 | 669 | 0.8 |
| Other Criminal Code traffic | 1,739 | 0.8 | 542 | 0.6 |
| TOTAL CRIMINAL CODE | 160,212 | 77.5 | 69,030 | 80.6 |
| Other Federal Statute Total | 46,435 | 22.5 | 16,610 | 19.4 |
| Drug possession | 6,676 | 3.2 | 4,058 | 4.7 |
| Drug trafficking | 3,559 | 1.7 | 2,000 | 2.3 |
| Young Offenders Act | 36,005 | 17.4 | 10,414 | 12.2 |
| Residual federal statutes | 195 | 0.1 | 138 | 0.2 |

Source: Youth Court Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

Table 6

Cases Heard in Youth Court by Offence Category and Age¹ of Accused, Canada, 2001/02

| Offence category | Total cases | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | Other ² |
|------------------------------|---------------|----------|----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|--------------------|
| | # | % | % | % | % | % | % | % |
| Total Offences | 85,640 | 3 | 7 | 14 | 21 | 26 | 28 | 2 |
| Crimes Against the Person | 22,510 | 4 | 10 | 16 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 1 |
| Crimes Against Property | 33,086 | 3 | 8 | 15 | 22 | 26 | 25 | 1 |
| Administration of Justice | 7,698 | 2 | 6 | 12 | 20 | 26 | 31 | 3 |
| Other Criminal Code Offences | 4,525 | 2 | 5 | 11 | 20 | 28 | 34 | 1 |
| Criminal Code Traffic | 1,211 | 0 | 1 | 4 | 9 | 26 | 58 | 1 |
| Drug Offences | 6,058 | 1 | 3 | 9 | 18 | 30 | 39 | 1 |
| Young Offenders Act | 10,414 | 1 | 4 | 13 | 22 | 27 | 29 | 5 |
| Other Federal Statutes | 138 | 1 | 3 | 7 | 16 | 30 | 40 | 3 |

¹ Age of the accused is at the time of the offence.

² "Other" includes 1,413 cases (1.6%), where the offender was older than 17 or the age was unknown.

Source: Youth Court Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

Table 7

Cases before Youth Courts by Most Serious Decision, 2001/02

| Jurisdiction | Total cases | Transfer to adult court | Guilty | Not guilty | Stayed | Withdrawn/d dismissed | Other ¹ |
|---------------------------|---------------|-------------------------|-----------|------------|-----------|-----------------------|--------------------|
| | # | % | % | % | % | % | % |
| Canada | 85,640 | 0 | 61 | 1 | 12 | 26 | 0 |
| Newfoundland and Labrador | 1,706 | 0 | 71 | 0 | 4 | 24 | 0 |
| Prince Edward Island | 301 | 0 | 60 | 3 | 26 | 11 | 0 |
| Nova Scotia | 2,580 | 0 | 56 | 2 | 0 | 42 | 0 |
| New Brunswick | 1,831 | 0 | 87 | 1 | 1 | 11 | 0 |
| Quebec | 9,939 | 0 | 71 | 6 | 10 | 12 | 0 |
| Ontario | 37,682 | 0 | 57 | 0 | 9 | 34 | 0 |
| Manitoba | 4,648 | 0 | 56 | 1 | 42 | 0 | 0 |
| Saskatchewan | 7,494 | 0 | 56 | 0 | 13 | 30 | 0 |
| Alberta | 11,601 | 0 | 64 | 1 | 2 | 33 | 1 |
| British Columbia | 7,050 | 0 | 64 | 2 | 33 | 1 | 0 |
| Yukon | 223 | 0 | 38 | 0 | 31 | 29 | 1 |
| Northwest Territories | 362 | 1 | 64 | 0 | 5 | 30 | 0 |
| Nunavut | 223 | 0 | 55 | 1 | 15 | 29 | 0 |

¹ "Other" includes transferred to another province/territory, unfit to stand trial and other decisions.

Source: Youth Court Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

Table 8

Youth Court Cases with Convictions by Type of Sentence, Canada, 2001/02

| Sentences | Total convicted cases | Secure custody | Open custody | Probation | Fine | Community Service | Other ¹ |
|--|-----------------------|----------------|--------------|-----------|-----------|-------------------|--------------------|
| | # | % | % | % | % | % | % |
| TOTAL OFFENCES | 51,952 | 15 | 14 | 66 | 7 | 27 | 31 |
| Crimes Against the Person | 13,798 | 14 | 15 | 79 | 2 | 25 | 33 |
| Homicide | 8 | 63 | 25 | 50 | 0 | 0 | 50 |
| Attempted murder | 14 | 43 | 21 | 79 | 0 | 21 | 64 |
| Robbery | 1,767 | 26 | 25 | 80 | 1 | 26 | 45 |
| Sexual assault | 662 | 11 | 15 | 86 | 1 | 16 | 26 |
| Other sexual offences | 288 | 9 | 14 | 88 | 0 | 15 | 24 |
| Major assault | 3,073 | 16 | 17 | 80 | 2 | 27 | 40 |
| Common assault | 5,651 | 10 | 10 | 78 | 3 | 27 | 29 |
| Uttering threats | 2,030 | 14 | 13 | 78 | 1 | 19 | 27 |
| Criminal harassment | 104 | 6 | 16 | 83 | 5 | 34 | 32 |
| Other crimes against persons | 201 | 17 | 23 | 83 | 1 | 32 | 35 |
| Crimes Against Property | 19,779 | 12 | 13 | 72 | 5 | 33 | 32 |
| Theft | 7,815 | 10 | 10 | 68 | 7 | 34 | 32 |
| Break and enter | 5,265 | 16 | 18 | 80 | 2 | 33 | 28 |
| Fraud | 1,009 | 10 | 11 | 72 | 7 | 29 | 42 |
| Mischief | 2,298 | 6 | 4 | 71 | 5 | 36 | 45 |
| Possess stolen property | 3,101 | 17 | 16 | 68 | 5 | 28 | 28 |
| Other property crimes | 291 | 10 | 14 | 85 | 1 | 45 | 26 |
| Administration of Justice | 4,489 | 30 | 19 | 38 | 9 | 15 | 19 |
| Fail to appear | 513 | 20 | 15 | 40 | 15 | 18 | 21 |
| Breach of probation | 122 | 17 | 16 | 57 | 11 | 20 | 16 |
| Unlawfully at large | 1,110 | 63 | 28 | 13 | 1 | 4 | 11 |
| Fail to comply with order | 2,463 | 19 | 17 | 45 | 10 | 17 | 23 |
| Other admin. justice | 281 | 13 | 8 | 63 | 10 | 30 | 22 |
| Other Criminal Code | 2,534 | 12 | 9 | 69 | 7 | 27 | 35 |
| Weapons | 854 | 11 | 9 | 71 | 6 | 24 | 50 |
| Prostitution | 11 | 9 | 9 | 55 | 0 | 18 | 27 |
| Disturbing the peace | 255 | 2 | 2 | 64 | 15 | 25 | 32 |
| Residual Criminal Code | 1,414 | 14 | 11 | 70 | 7 | 29 | 27 |
| Total Criminal Code (excluding traffic) | 40,600 | 15 | 14 | 70 | 5 | 28 | 31 |
| Criminal Code Traffic | 859 | 7 | 6 | 43 | 49 | 22 | 73 |
| Impaired driving | 508 | 2 | 0 | 30 | 68 | 19 | 87 |
| Other Criminal Code traffic | 351 | 15 | 13 | 63 | 20 | 26 | 54 |
| TOTAL CRIMINAL CODE | 41,459 | 15 | 14 | 70 | 5 | 28 | 32 |
| Other Federal Statute Total | 10,493 | 16 | 16 | 49 | 14 | 26 | 25 |
| Drug possession | 2,008 | 2 | 3 | 56 | 22 | 30 | 41 |
| Drug trafficking | 1,282 | 11 | 10 | 83 | 9 | 43 | 50 |
| Young Offenders Act | 7,112 | 21 | 21 | 41 | 12 | 22 | 16 |
| Other federal statutes | 91 | 1 | 0 | 23 | 59 | 26 | 12 |

¹ Includes absolute discharge, restitution, prohibition, seizure, forfeiture, compensation, pay purchaser, essays, apologies, counseling programs and conditional discharge.

Note: Totals may not add to 100% due to rounding.

Source: Youth Court Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

Table 9

Sentences in Youth Courts, 2001/02

| | Total convicted cases (#) | Type of sentence (percent ¹) | | | | | Other ² |
|---------------------------|---------------------------|--|--------------|-----------|----------|-------------------|--------------------|
| | | Secure custody | Open custody | Probation | Fine | Community service | |
| Canada | 51,952 | 15 | 14 | 66 | 7 | 27 | 31 |
| Newfoundland and Labrador | 1,211 | 20 | 13 | 75 | 5 | 23 | 22 |
| Prince Edward Island | 181 | 22 | 23 | 73 | 10 | 0 | 41 |
| Nova Scotia | 1,442 | 2 | 29 | 73 | 6 | 28 | 12 |
| New Brunswick | 1,584 | 18 | 14 | 69 | 6 | 0 | 20 |
| Quebec | 7,081 | 14 | 10 | 75 | 5 | 46 | 33 |
| Ontario | 21,323 | 16 | 16 | 69 | 4 | 23 | 32 |
| Manitoba | 2,597 | 13 | 15 | 66 | 10 | 20 | 47 |
| Saskatchewan | 4,175 | 20 | 11 | 59 | 6 | 36 | 15 |
| Alberta | 7,431 | 14 | 8 | 44 | 20 | 24 | 40 |
| British Columbia | 4,486 | 12 | 21 | 73 | 5 | 32 | 27 |
| Yukon | 85 | 32 | 13 | 47 | 1 | 18 | 33 |
| Northwest Territories | 233 | 19 | 26 | 52 | 15 | 25 | 12 |
| Nunavut | 123 | 13 | 10 | 83 | 2 | 4 | 13 |

¹ Percentages do not add to 100% because multiple sentences for a case are included.

² Other includes compensation, pay purchaser, compensation in kind, restitution, prohibition, seizure, forfeiture, conditional discharge, absolute discharge, essays, apologies and counselling programs.

Source: Youth Court Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

Table 10

Decisions in Youth Courts, 1992/93 to 2001/02

| Year | | Type of decision | | | | | |
|---------|------------------|------------------|--------|-----------|--------|-----------------------|--------------------|
| | | Total cases | Guilty | Acquitted | Stay | Withdrawn / dismissed | Other ¹ |
| 2001-02 | No. of cases | 85,640 | 51,952 | 1,132 | 10,114 | 22,024 | 418 |
| | Rate/ 100,000 | 3,465 | 2,102 | 46 | 409 | 891 | 17 |
| | % of total cases | 100 | 61 | 1 | 12 | 26 | 0 |
| 2000-01 | No. of cases | 87,617 | 53,283 | 1,186 | 10,282 | 22,511 | 355 |
| | Rate/ 100,000 | 3,572 | 2,172 | 48 | 419 | 918 | 14 |
| | % of total cases | 100 | 61 | 1 | 12 | 26 | 0 |
| 1999-00 | No. of cases | 87,600 | 55,534 | 1,163 | 9,921 | 20,482 | 500 |
| | Rate/ 100,000 | 3,575 | 2,266 | 47 | 405 | 836 | 20 |
| | % of total cases | 100 | 63 | 1 | 11 | 23 | 1 |
| 1998-99 | No. of cases | 92,867 | 59,385 | 1,334 | 10,233 | 21,505 | 410 |
| | Rate/ 100,000 | 3,791 | 2,424 | 54 | 418 | 878 | 17 |
| | % of total cases | 100 | 64 | 1 | 11 | 23 | 0 |
| 1997-98 | No. of cases | 97,161 | 60,713 | 1,571 | 12,255 | 22,279 | 343 |
| | Rate/ 100,000 | 3,983 | 2,489 | 64 | 502 | 913 | 14 |
| | % of total cases | 100 | 62 | 2 | 13 | 23 | 0 |
| 1996-97 | No. of cases | 94,931 | 60,188 | 1,557 | 11,502 | 21,369 | 315 |
| | Rate/ 100,000 | 3,927 | 2,490 | 64 | 476 | 884 | 13 |
| | % of total cases | 100 | 63 | 2 | 12 | 23 | 0 |
| 1995-96 | No. of cases | 95,462 | 58,757 | 1,494 | 12,400 | 22,504 | 307 |
| | Rate/ 100,000 | 4,000 | 2,462 | 63 | 520 | 943 | 13 |
| | % of total cases | 100 | 62 | 2 | 13 | 24 | 0 |
| 1994-95 | No. of cases | 96,247 | 60,631 | 1,779 | 8,884 | 24,679 | 274 |
| | Rate/ 100,000 | 4,080 | 2,570 | 75 | 377 | 1,046 | 12 |
| | % of total cases | 100 | 63 | 2 | 9 | 26 | 0 |
| 1993-94 | No. of cases | 101,144 | 63,773 | 1,726 | 8,655 | 26,723 | 267 |
| | Rate/ 100,000 | 4,339 | 2,736 | 74 | 371 | 1,146 | 11 |
| | % of total cases | 100 | 63 | 2 | 9 | 26 | 0 |
| 1992-93 | No. of cases | 101,691 | 63,646 | 1,726 | 9,093 | 26,943 | 283 |
| | Rate/ 100,000 | 4,412 | 2,761 | 75 | 394 | 1,169 | 12 |
| | % of total cases | 100 | 63 | 2 | 9 | 26 | 0 |

¹ Other includes transfers to another jurisdiction, transfers to adult court, unfit to stand trial and not guilty by reason of insanity.

Note: Totals may not add to 100% due to rounding.

Source: Youth Court Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

Table 11

Sentence Type¹ in Youth Courts, 1992/93 to 2001/02

| Year | | Type of sentence | | | | |
|---------|------------------|------------------|----------------|--------------|-----------|-------|
| | | Total cases | Secure custody | Open custody | Probation | Fine |
| 2001/02 | No. of cases | 51,952 | 7,720 | 7,339 | 34,083 | 3,719 |
| | Median (days/\$) | | 30 | 36 | 360 | 150 |
| | % of total cases | | 15 | 14 | 66 | 7 |
| 2000/01 | No. of cases | 53,283 | 7,978 | 8,269 | 34,435 | 3,984 |
| | Median (days/\$) | | 30 | 30 | 360 | 150 |
| | % of total cases | | 15 | 16 | 65 | 7 |
| 1999/00 | No. of cases | 55,534 | 8,102 | 8,509 | 35,554 | 4,484 |
| | Median (days/\$) | | 30 | 40 | 360 | 150 |
| | % of total cases | | 15 | 15 | 64 | 8 |
| 1998/99 | No. of cases | 59,385 | 8,855 | 9,637 | 38,285 | 4,700 |
| | Median (days/\$) | | 30 | 42 | 360 | 125 |
| | % of total cases | | 15 | 16 | 64 | 8 |
| 1997/98 | No. of cases | 60,713 | 8,943 | 10,037 | 38,692 | 4,945 |
| | Median (days/\$) | | 30 | 45 | 360 | 150 |
| | % of total cases | | 15 | 17 | 64 | 8 |
| 1996/97 | No. of cases | 60,188 | 8,167 | 9,737 | 40,652 | 4,413 |
| | Median (days/\$) | | 30 | 45 | 360 | 100 |
| | % of total cases | | 14 | 16 | 68 | 7 |
| 1995/96 | No. of cases | 58,757 | 7,631 | 9,739 | 38,157 | 4,874 |
| | Median (days/\$) | | 35 | 50 | 360 | 128 |
| | % of total cases | | 13 | 17 | 65 | 8 |
| 1994/95 | No. of cases | 60,631 | 8,377 | 10,028 | 39,263 | 5,379 |
| | Median (days/\$) | | 40 | 60 | 360 | 125 |
| | % of total cases | | 14 | 17 | 65 | 9 |
| 1993/94 | No. of cases | 63,773 | 8,443 | 10,165 | 40,678 | 6,094 |
| | Median (days/\$) | | 45 | 60 | 360 | 100 |
| | % of total cases | | 13 | 16 | 64 | 10 |
| 1992/93 | No. of cases | 63,646 | 7,606 | 9,279 | 31,368 | 6,055 |
| | Median (days/\$) | | 45 | 60 | 360 | 100 |
| | % of total cases | | 12 | 15 | 49 | 10 |

¹ Sentence Type includes all sentences that were handed out for a particular case, therefore the percentages do not add to 100%.

Source: Youth Court Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics

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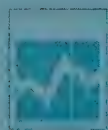
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CANADA'S SHELTERS FOR ABUSED WOMEN, 2001/02

by Ruth Code

Highlights

- In 2001/02, 101,248 women and dependent children were admitted to 482 shelters across Canada. In comparison, 96,359 women and dependent children were admitted to 448 shelters in 1999/2000 and 90,792 women and dependent children were admitted to 413 shelters in 1997/98.
- On April 15, 2002, 6,286 women and children were residing in shelters. This is an increase from 5,351 women and children residing in shelters on snapshot day 2000 and 6,115 women and children residing in shelters on snapshot day, 1998.
- 73% of the women and 84% of the children living in shelters on April 15, 2002 were there to escape abuse. This is a decrease from 81% of women and 91% of children residing in shelters for reasons of abuse as of noon April 17, 2001.
- The trend data shows that 60% of shelters were transition homes. This is a decrease from 63% in 2000 and 66% in 1998. Over the same time period the number of emergency shelters and women's emergency centres grew from a low of 11% in 1998 to 14% in 2000 to a high of 16% in 2002.
- On April 15, 2002, 110 women and 64 children departed before noon from 430 shelters across Canada. A minority of women, only 12%, returned to their spouse. One quarter (25%) left the shelter for alternate housing, 12% went to stay with friends or relatives, 8% returned home without their spouse, 19% went to other housing and for 25% of women it was not known where they were going to reside.
- On April 15, 2002, 115 shelters reported that they referred 295 women and 257 children elsewhere. A full three-quarters of these shelters (75%) could not accommodate these women and children because the shelter was full (up from 71% in 1999/2000)"
- Results from the 2001/02 survey indicated a slight decrease from 1999/2000 in the percentage of shelters that provided programs for children who have witnessed or experienced abuse (68% versus 75%).



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Introduction

Over the last thirty years community groups and governments have undertaken numerous actions and strategies aimed at the reduction of violence within the family. These strategies are designed to reduce and prevent the incidence of abuse, raise public awareness about family violence and provide services for victims such as housing for those fleeing abuse. Awareness and concern over family violence has risen among Canadians. According to a national public opinion survey conducted by EKOS Research Associates in 2002, the majority of Canadians (62%) reported that the problem of family violence in our society is more serious today than it was ten years ago. Three-quarters of Canadians felt that family violence should be an urgent priority for the federal government (77%) and for their community (76%).

Family violence can take many forms, including physical and sexual abuse, threats, harassment and financial and psychological abuse and can have serious and damaging effects on victims. According to the 1999 General Social Survey, violence in marriages and common-law unions is a reality that many women and men face. Women and men report similar rates of violence by their intimate partner. Women are more likely to be subjected to severe forms of violence (e.g. beaten, choked, sexually assaulted). Women are three times more likely to suffer injury, five times more likely to receive medical attention, and five times more likely to fear for their lives as a result of the violence (Family Violence in Canada, 2002). Furthermore, women account for the majority of victims in spousal homicide incidents, the most serious form of family violence.

One measure taken to assist women fleeing abuse and their children has been the development of a substantial system of shelters. The decision by a woman to use a shelter depends on a number of factors, including the availability and awareness of the service, the impact that this decision may have on other aspects of a victim's life such as custody over children, fear of reprisal by the abuser and reluctance due to shame or embarrassment.

The establishment of shelters to provide temporary safe refuge for abused women and their children dates back to the 1970's. Since that time, the combined efforts of the federal government, provincial/territorial governments and community groups have resulted in the development of over 500 shelters across Canada. There are also many provincial, territorial and community programs that provide services and programs for women who have experienced abuse. These include expenditures for the on-going operation and maintenance of shelters, counselling and prevention programs, legal services and public awareness programs.

Several recent Canadian evaluations examined how effectively shelters provide assistance to abused women and their children. An evaluation conducted by Canadian Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) in 1997 reported that a high proportion of the 9,000 residents of the 77 shelters studied during a one-year period rated the shelter support and services as "valuable." Similarly, the 1993 Violence Against Women Survey reported that 81% of the women who used a shelter found it helpful (Rodgers, 1994). In addition, an evaluation of 68 second-stage shelters funded by CMHC Canadian Next Step Program, concluded that the availability of second-stage housing was a critical factor in the decision not to return to an abusive partner (SPR Associates, 1997).

Currently, there are no shelters in Canada that provide residential services exclusively to adult male victims of family abuse. However, some shelters do provide some services to men abused by their family.

The Transition Home Survey is distributed across Canada to all agencies that provide residential services to abused women. In order to provide an accurate picture of the facilities that provide services to abused women and their children and the range of services offered, the survey includes provincially funded shelters for abused women and their children as well as agencies that provide services that are not exclusive to abused women and children. For these reasons, shelters such as YWCA's, safe home networks and general emergency shelters are included within the survey.

The Transition Home Survey is a census survey of residential facilities conducted every two years. Questionnaires are mailed to every known shelter identified as providing residential services (shelter) to abused women in every province and territory. Information is collected on the characteristics of the facilities and the services provided during the previous 12 months. The survey also includes a one-day snapshot providing information on the characteristics of women and children residing in shelters on a specific day. The purpose of this Juristat is to provide national information on the number of women and their children, who sought refuge for reasons of abuse during the 12 month period ending March 31, 2002, to provide a profile of the characteristics of the facilities who serve these women and to provide a profile of the clients they served on snapshot day, April 15, 2002. Where possible, comparisons are made with the 1997/98 and the 1999/2000 survey cycles (which had a 91% and 92% response rate, respectively). Additionally, since the characteristics of shelters and women and children residents may change over time and the number of shelters continue to change (through shelter openings and closings, and changes in designation), one way to measure change overtime is to hold constant the shelters studied. A trend data file was created that contained only those facilities that responded to the 1998, 2000 and 2002 cycles of the survey, in order to understand trends in the clientele served and the services provided. Information representative of the trends of a subset of 359 shelters that responded to the 1998, 2000 and 2002 cycles of the survey will be presented.¹

Types of shelters

The term shelter is used broadly to refer to all residential facilities for abused women and their dependent children. The types of shelters are defined by the Transition Home Survey as:

Transition Home – Short or moderate term (1 day to 11 weeks) first stage emergency housing.

Second Stage Housing – Long-term (3-12 months) secure housing with support and referral services designed to assist women while they search for permanent housing.

Safe Home Network – A network of private homes in rural or remote areas where there is no full-fledged operating shelter. It offers subsidiary very short-term (1-3 days) emergency housing.

Women's Emergency Centre/Shelter – Short-term (1-21 days) respite (temporary relief) for women and their dependent children.

Emergency Shelter – Short-term (1-3 days) respite for a wide population range, not exclusively abused women. Some facilities may provide accommodation for men as well as women. This type of facility may accommodate residents who are not associated with family abuse but are without a home due to an emergency situation (e.g., eviction for non-payment of rent). Other than residential (room and board) services, these shelters offer few additional client services.

Family Resource Centre – An Ontario government initiative that serves a wide range of clients and provides clients with an extensive array of information and referrals as well as residential services.

Other – All other facilities/shelters not otherwise classified. This category may include Rural Family Violence Prevention Centres in Alberta, Interim Housing in Manitoba, and other types of emergency shelters, such as YWCA's. These services may not be exclusive to abused women.

A Profile of Facilities

Change in the make-up of reporting shelter types

On April 15, 2002, there were 524 shelters that provided residential services for abused women and their children, according to the definition of shelter used in this survey, across Canada. Out of the 524 shelters contacted for the 2001/02 survey, 482 or 92% responded to the survey (Table 1).² In 1999/2000, 467 shelters out of the 508 shelters contacted, responded to the survey. Twenty-five new facilities reported to the 2001/02 survey, however, it is important to note that an increase in the number of new facilities does not necessarily mean an increase in the number of shelters. For example, if a shelter provides more than one type of residential facility service, (i.e. a transition home and a second stage home) a questionnaire is completed for each facility type. The number of spaces available to abused women does not necessarily increase with additional facility types. Of the twenty-five new shelters that reported to the 2001/02 survey, 64% (16) were housed in already existing shelters.³ Of the 40 new shelters that responded to the survey in 1999/2000, 60% (24) were housed in existing shelters. In 2001/02, more than half, 14 or 56% of all new facilities were emergency shelters and women's emergency centres.

Table 1

Number of shelters operating and responding to the Transition Home Survey by province and territory, 2001/02

| | Number operating | Number that responded | % |
|---------------------------|------------------|-----------------------|-----------|
| Canada | 524 | 482 | 92 |
| Newfoundland and Labrador | 14 | 13 | 93 |
| Prince Edward Island | 4 | 4 | 100 |
| Nova Scotia | 20 | 18 | 90 |
| New Brunswick | 16 | 15 | 94 |
| Quebec | 111 | 103 | 94 |
| Ontario | 152 | 142 | 93 |
| Manitoba | 25 | 23 | 92 |
| Saskatchewan | 23 | 21 | 91 |
| Alberta | 40 | 36 | 90 |
| British Columbia | 100 | 91 | 91 |
| Yukon | 6 | 5 | 83 |
| Northwest Territories | 8 | 7 | 88 |
| Nunavut | 5 | 4 | 80 |

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Transition Home Survey, 2001/02.

¹ When presenting trend data information, the 1997/98, 1999/2000 and 2001/02 Transition Home Survey will be referred to as if they pertained solely to the year in which they were conducted. In reality, annual information for the 1997/98 Transition Home Survey covered the period April 1, 1997 to March 31, 1998 while the snapshot was April 20, 1998. The 1999/2000 cycle covered the period April 1, 1999 to March 31, 2000 for annual information and the snapshot day was April 17, 2000. The 2001/02 cycle covered the period April 1, 2001 to March 31, 2002 for annual information and the snapshot day was April 15, 2002.

² The exclusion of certain shelters, as well as non-response for certain questions by participating shelters, means that some information based on the 2001/02 survey is undercounted or incomplete. This is not the case for the information based on the trend data file.

³ Shelters may house multiple facility types for a number of reasons including operational factors such as costs, the length of resident stay, the location (urban/suburban, rural and reserve) and a lack of housing options for women and children upon departure).

Counting only openings of new facilities and excluding those housed in existing shelters, the number of shelter closures in 2001/02 exceeded new shelter growth for that reporting year (19 closures compared to 14 new facilities). In 1999/2000 there were 8 shelter closures and in 1997/98 six shelters closed.

Annual admissions to shelters continues to increase. In the year ending March 31, 2002⁴ there were 101,248 admissions to the 482 facilities that reported to the survey: 55,901 women and 45,347 children. In 1999/2000, there were 96,359 admissions to the 448 facilities that responded to the survey question: 57,182 women and 39,177 children. The 1997/98 survey found that 90,792 women and dependent children were

admitted to 413 shelters.⁵ (Table 2). Growth in the number of women and children admitted to shelters is also reflected in snapshot day data. On April 15, 2002, 6,286 women and children were residing in shelters. This is an increase from 5,351 women and children residing in shelters on snapshot day 1999/2000 and 6,115 women children residing in shelters on snapshot day, 1997/98.

⁴ The precise reporting period may vary. Shelters were asked to provide information for the twelve-month period ending March 31, 2002 or their own twelve-month fiscal period.

⁵ Response rates were quite high for both 2001/02 (92%), 1999/2000 (92%) and 1997/98 (91%), therefore non-response bias is minimal.

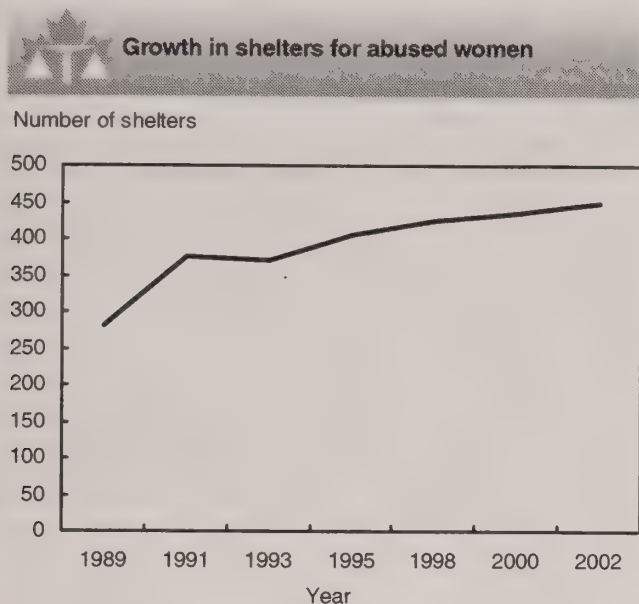
Table 2

Number of annual admissions to shelters by province and facility type, 2002

| | Facility type | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---------------------------|--------------------------|-------|----------|-------------------|--------|----------|------------------------|-------|----------|-------------------|-------|----------|
| | Total | | | Transition House | | | Second Stage Housing | | | Safe Home Network | | |
| | | | | Total | Women | Children | Total | Women | Children | Total | Women | Children |
| Canada | 101,248 | | | 53,390 | 28,963 | 24,427 | 3,620 | 1,470 | 2,150 | 684 | 380 | 304 |
| Newfoundland and Labrador | 1162 | | | 978 | 514 | 464 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Prince Edward Island | 232 | | | 155 | 80 | 75 | 77 | 33 | 44 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Nova Scotia | 1,897 | | | 1,695 | 970 | 725 | 202 | 147 | 55 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| New Brunswick | 2,131 | | | 1,865 | 1,056 | 809 | 79 | 36 | 43 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Quebec | 21,148 | | | 14,682 | 8,642 | 6,040 | 137 | 61 | 76 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Ontario | 34,588 | | | 14,670 | 7,571 | 7,099 | 1,906 | 718 | 1,188 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Manitoba | 6,565 | | | 459 | 180 | 279 | 425 | 160 | 265 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Saskatchewan | 4,572 | | | 2,234 | 930 | 1,304 | 107 | 42 | 65 | 11 | 4 | 7 |
| Alberta | 10,642 | | | 1,881 | 856 | 1,025 | 301 | 109 | 192 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| British Columbia | 15,909 | | | 13,247 | 7,442 | 5,805 | 361 | 151 | 210 | 673 | 376 | 297 |
| Yukon | 754 | | | 699 | 391 | 308 | 19 | 11 | 8 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Northwest Territories | 1,030 | | | 825 | 331 | 494 | 4 | 1 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Nunavut | 618 | | | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Women's Emergency Centre | | | Emergency Shelter | | | Family Resource Centre | | | Other | | |
| | Total | Women | Children | Total | Women | Children | Total | Women | Children | Total | Women | Children |
| Canada | 17,154 | 8,437 | 8,717 | 19,934 | 13,413 | 6,521 | 1,883 | 930 | 953 | 4,583 | 2,308 | 2,275 |
| Newfoundland and Labrador | 0 | 0 | 0 | 151 | 151 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 31 | 27 | 4 |
| Prince Edward Island | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Nova Scotia | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| New Brunswick | 187 | 132 | 55 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Quebec | 502 | 238 | 264 | 4,772 | 4,759 | 13 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1,055 | 679 | 376 |
| Ontario | 3,780 | 1,936 | 1,844 | 9,435 | 5,631 | 3,804 | 1,883 | 930 | 953 | 2,914 | 1,280 | 1,634 |
| Manitoba | 3,909 | 1,880 | 2,029 | 1,651 | 646 | 1,005 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 121 | 45 | 76 |
| Saskatchewan | 368 | 144 | 224 | 1,671 | 883 | 788 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 181 | 85 | 96 |
| Alberta | 7,186 | 3,488 | 3,698 | 1,058 | 498 | 560 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 216 | 135 | 81 |
| British Columbia | 367 | 297 | 70 | 1,196 | 845 | 351 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 65 | 57 | 8 |
| Yukon | 36 | 15 | 21 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Northwest Territories | 201 | 65 | 136 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Nunavut | 618 | 242 | 376 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

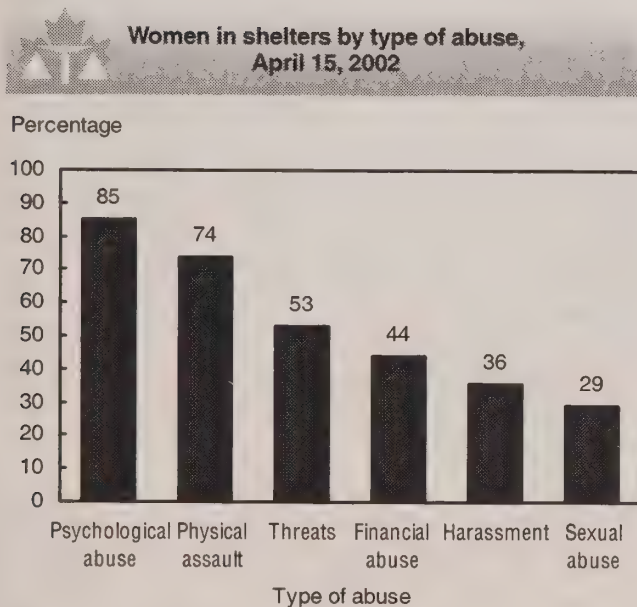
Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Transition Home Survey, 2001/02.

Figure 1



Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Transition Homes Survey, 2001/02.

Figure 2



Note: Figures do not add to 100% due to multiple responses.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Transition Home Survey, 2001/02.

Drop in the percentage of women and children residing in shelters primarily for reasons of abuse

While there has been an increase in the number of women and children residing in shelters, there has been a decrease in the proportion of women and children residing in shelters primarily for reasons of abuse. In a snapshot taken as of noon on April 15, 2002, 73% percent of the women and 84% of the children living in shelters were there to escape abuse (Table 3). This is a decrease from 81% of women and 91% of children residing in shelters for reasons of abuse on snapshot day in 2001 and 80% of women and children on snapshot day 1998.

Of the women residing in shelters for reasons of abuse in 2002, 85% were there to escape emotional/psychological abuse, 74% physical violence, 53% threats, 44% financial abuse, 36% harassment and 29% sexual abuse. (Figure 2). Of the women residing in shelters for reasons other than abuse, the majority (57%) were unable to find affordable housing, 31% were experiencing short term housing problems, 40% were experiencing drug and alcohol problems, and 39% mental health problems.⁶ (Table 3)

⁶ Percentages will not add up to 100% due to multiple responses.

Table 3

| Reason(s) for residing in shelters, April 15, 2002 | | |
|--|--------------|------------|
| | Number | Percentage |
| Total Women | 3,287 | 100 |
| Abuse | 2,401 | 73 |
| Non-Abuse | 886 | 27 |
| Abusive situations | 2,401 | 100 |
| Physical Abuse | 1,768 | 74 |
| Sexual Abuse | 688 | 29 |
| Financial Abuse | 1,067 | 44 |
| Psychological Abuse | 2,046 | 85 |
| Threats | 1,286 | 53 |
| Harassment | 876 | 36 |
| Other Abuse | 109 | 5 |
| Total women with parenting responsibilities | 1,689 | 100 |
| Protection of children from: | | |
| Physical Abuse | 395 | 23 |
| Sexual Abuse | 95 | 6 |
| Threats | 352 | 21 |
| Psychological | 726 | 43 |
| Neglect | 196 | 12 |
| Witnessing abuse of mother | 966 | 57 |
| Situations not involving abuse | 886 | 100 |
| Housing Emergency | 335 | 38 |
| Unable to find affordable housing | 506 | 57 |
| Short-term housing problem | 278 | 31 |
| Mental Health Problems | 348 | 39 |
| Drug and Alcohol Addiction | 358 | 40 |
| Other Non-Abuse | 231 | 26 |
| Reason Unknown | 18 | 2 |

Note: Percentages will not add to 100 due to multiple responses.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Transition Home Survey, 2001/02.

Shifts in the make-up of shelter types

The decrease in the percentage of women and children residing in shelters for reasons of abuse may be explained by shifts in the make-up of shelter types. In 2001/02, transition homes made up 54% (259) of the 482 shelters that reported to the survey, a decrease from 58% in 1999/2000 (269 of the 467 that reported to the 1999/2000 survey cycle). The number of reporting emergency shelters and women's emergency centres increased from 75 in 1999/2000 (16% of reporting shelters) to 99 in 2001/02 (20% of reporting shelters). Ontario reported the greatest change in the make up of shelter types from 1999/2000 to 2001/02, with a decrease from 65 to 53 transition homes and an increase from 30 to 45 emergency shelters and women's emergency centres.

Similar results are evidenced in the trend data which controls for the influence of shifts in response rate overtime on the breakdown of shelter types, by considering only facilities that have reported in 1998, 2000 and 2002. In 1998, 237 (66%) of the 359 shelters in the trend data were transition homes (Table 4). This number dropped over time to 225 (63%) in 2000 and further to 218 (60%) in 2002. Over the same time period the number of emergency shelters and women's emergency centres grew from a low of 40 (11%) in 1998 to 48 (14%) in 2000 to a high of 58 (16%) in 2002. This indicates that some shelters changed designations from transitions homes to emergency shelters. General emergency shelters provide services to a wide population range, not exclusively abused women. Operational factors, such as costs, availability of funding based on shelter type, capacity and duration of stay by residents, may account for the decrease in the number of transition homes and the corresponding increase in general emergency shelters and women's emergency centres.

While there has been a decrease in the number of transition homes, the proportion of women residing in this shelter type for reasons of abuse is high. In 2001/02, 84% of women residing in transition homes were there for reasons of abuse.

Table 4

| Changes in shelter type over time, 1998-2002 | | | | | | |
|--|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| Shelter Type ¹ | Year | | | | | |
| | 1998 | | 2000 | | 2002 | |
| | No. | % | No. | % | No. | % |
| Total | 359 | 100 | 359 | 100 | 359 | 100 |
| Transition Home | 237 | 66 | 225 | 63 | 218 | 60 |
| Second Stage Housing | 49 | 14 | 51 | 14 | 51 | 14 |
| Safe Home Network | 11 | 3 | 11 | 3 | 11 | 3 |
| Women's Emergency Centre | 19 | 5 | 21 | 6 | 32 | 9 |
| Emergency Shelter | 21 | 6 | 27 | 8 | 26 | 7 |
| Family Resource Centre | 11 | 3 | 12 | 3 | 10 | 3 |
| Other | 11 | 3 | 12 | 3 | 11 | 3 |

Percentages may not total 100% due to rounding.

¹ Figures relate only to the 359 shelters that responded to this question in the 1998, 2000 and 2002 cycles of the survey.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Transition Home Survey Trend Data File, 1998-2002.

Ninety-five percent of women residing in second stage housing, 65% of women in women's emergency centres, 43% of women in general emergency shelters, 40% of women in family resource centres and 46% of women in other facility types were there for reasons of abuse.

The average rate of abused women residing in shelters across Canada is 18.7 per 100,000 women aged 15 and over. A breakdown of rates by province shows that rates of shelter use by abused women is the highest in the Yukon, 9 times the national average (103.2 per 100,000 women aged 15 and over). Rates were also high in the Northwest Territories (84.1 per 100,000 women) and Nunavut (58.4 per 100,000 women). Shelters in Manitoba reported the next highest rate of shelter use by abused women at 21.3 per 100,000 women. Newfoundland shelters reported the lowest rate (12.4 per 100,000 women). Differences in provincial rates are not necessarily a reflection of differences in the incidence of abuse, but may be affected by the availability and size of shelters, the catchment area that a shelter serves, and the number of shelters responding to the survey in each province and territory.

Table 5

| Rate ¹ of women in shelters, resident on April 15, 2002, admitted for reasons of abuse, province and territory | | | |
|---|---|---------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| | Number of resident women for reasons of abuse | Number of women in the population 15+ | Rate per 100,000 women 15+ |
| Canada | 2,401 | 12,843,183 | 18.7 |
| Newfoundland and Labrador | 28 | 225,506 | 12.4 |
| Prince Edward Island | 12 | 57,486 | 20.9 |
| Nova Scotia | 85 | 399,042 | 21.3 |
| New Brunswick | 64 | 317,038 | 20.2 |
| Quebec | 458 | 3,114,217 | 14.7 |
| Ontario | 1,019 | 4,901,792 | 20.8 |
| Manitoba | 99 | 464,033 | 21.3 |
| Saskatchewan | 70 | 405,851 | 17.2 |
| Alberta | 189 | 1,213,604 | 15.6 |
| British Columbia | 348 | 1,710,156 | 20.3 |
| Yukon | 12 | 11,631 | 103.2 |
| Northwest Territories | 12 | 14,268 | 84.1 |
| Nunavut | 5 | 8,559 | 58.4 |

¹ Rates are calculated based on 100,000 population. Population estimates are provided by Statistics Canada, Demography Division. Populations as of July 1: preliminary postcensal estimates for 2002.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Transition Home Survey, 2001/02.

The vast majority of abused women in shelters on April 15, 2002 were seeking shelter from someone with whom they had an intimate relationship (82%), either a spouse or common-law partner (66% in 2001/02 down from 68% in 1999/2000), former spouse or partner (10% in 2001/02 down from 14% in 1999/2000) or current or ex-boyfriend (5% in 1997/1998 and 1999/2000, 6% in 2001/02). A further 6% were abused by a relative, friend, caregiver, authority figure, down from 11% in 1999/2000 and up from 8% in 1997/98, while for 4% of women in 1999/2000 and 9% in 2001/02, the shelter could not specify the relationship.

Table 6

Characteristics of abused women residing in shelters by age, parental status, disability and relationship to abuser, April 15, 2002

| | Number | Percentage |
|--|--------------|------------|
| Total women admitted due to abuse | 2,401 | 100 |
| Age | | |
| 15-24 | 456 | 19 |
| 25-34 | 846 | 35 |
| 35-44 | 633 | 26 |
| 45-54 | 222 | 9 |
| 55+ | 79 | 3 |
| Age Unknown | 169 | 7 |
| Parental status | | |
| Admitted with child(ren) | 1,294 | 54 |
| Admitted without child(ren) | 395 | 16 |
| Admitted who have no child(ren) | 528 | 22 |
| Parental status unknown | 184 | 8 |
| Disabilities | | |
| Physical | 151 | 6 |
| Other | 156 | 6 |
| No disabilities | 1,120 | 47 |
| Don't know | 99 | 4 |
| Relationship between woman and abuser | | |
| Spouse/common law partner | 1,584 | 66 |
| Ex-spouse/Ex-partner | 252 | 10 |
| Dating/Ex-dating | 149 | 6 |
| Relative | 141 | 6 |
| Other | 62 | 3 |
| Don't know | 213 | 9 |

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Transition Home Survey, 2001/02.

Decrease in the number of children accompanying their mothers to shelters

In the year ending March 31, 1998, 74,813 residents (38,920 women and 35,893 children) were admitted to the 355 shelters that responded to that question in all three survey cycles. In the year ending March 31, 2000, the number of residents admitted to these same facilities dropped to 67,995 (36,736 women and 31,259 children) and increased slightly to 71,273 (38,738 women and 32,535 children) in March 31, 2002. A decrease in the number of children in shelters contributed the most to the overall decline in annual admissions to these facilities, a 10% decrease in the number of children accompanying their mothers to shelters from 1998 to 2002. This compares to a 2% decrease in the number of women admitted from 1998 to 2002.

Snapshot day trend data indicates similar results to annual admission data, whereby there has been a decrease in the number of children accompanying their mothers to shelters over time. From April 20, 1998 to April 15, 2002 there was an 8% decrease in the number of children residents. There was also a decrease in the percentage of abused women admitted with their children on respective snapshot days over the three reporting periods.⁷ The percentage of abused women admitted with their children declined from 58% to 56% and further to 54%.

⁷ A total of 357 shelters provided responses to this question in 1998, 2000 and 2002.

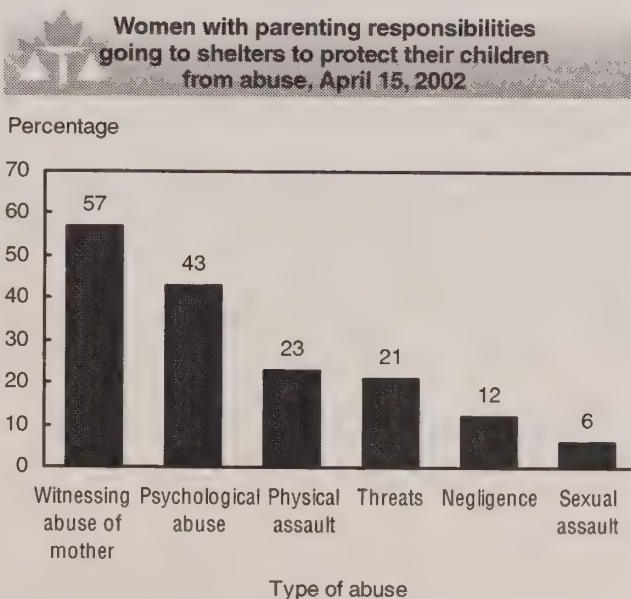
The decrease in the number of children accompanying their mothers to shelters coincided with amendments to provincial child welfare policies whereby it is possible for children to be apprehended by child welfare authorities when their mothers have been abused. The decrease in the number of children accompanying their mothers to shelters may also be explained by the increase in the number of short-term emergency type shelters and the decrease in the number of longer-term care transition homes.

Increase in the percentage of women protecting their children from witnessing abuse

While there has been a decrease in the proportion of children accompanying their mother to shelters, there has been an increase in the proportion of women with parenting responsibilities who reported protecting their children from witnessing the abuse of their mother. On April 15, 2002 over half of the women with parenting responsibilities (57%) brought their children to the shelter to protect them from witnessing the abuse of their mother. This represents an increase from 49% in 1999/2000. The trend data also shows an increase in the number of women with parenting responsibilities who were protecting their children from witnessing the abuse of their mother on respective snapshot days (50% in 2000 and 54% in 2002). According to the 1999 GSS, children heard or saw one parent assaulting the other in an estimated 461,000 households, which represents 37% of all households with spousal violence in the five years preceding the survey.

Of the women residing in shelters on snapshot day, 43% were there to protect their children from psychological abuse, 23% from physical violence, 21% from threats, 12% from neglect, and 6% from sexual abuse (Figure 3).

Figure 3



Note: Figures do not add to 100% due to multiple responses.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Transition Home Survey, 2001/02.

The majority of children accompanying their mother to a shelter were very young. Children under 5 years of age constituted 39% of all children admitted and an additional 32% were aged 5 to 9. Children aged 10 to 15 made up 21%, while the smallest group (3%) were aged 16 and over. For 4% of children, the age was not known. Shelters in the trend data file show the same percentage breakdown of children by age over the three reporting periods.

Young women in abusive relationships continue to make up a small proportion of shelter users

Both the 1999 General Social Survey on Victimization and the 1993 Violence Against Women Survey show that women under the age of 25 had the highest rates of spousal violence and are at the greatest risk of being killed by estranged spouses (Hotton, 2001). The largest proportion of abused women residing in shelters on snapshot day were women aged 25 to 34 and this age group had the highest rates per 100,000 population.

Admissions of Adult Men to Shelters

In 1999/2000 and 2001/02 there were no shelters in Canada that provided residential services exclusively to adult male victims of family abuse.⁸ As with women, adult men were defined as those 15 years of age and over who were admitted to a facility with or without children. Adult men admitted with their mother were excluded.

Most facilities had policies that did not allow adult males to be admitted into their facility (89% in 1999/2000 and 90% in 2001/02). Seven percent of shelters had a policy that allowed adult men to be admitted, (up from 5% in 1999/2000) while 4% had no facility policy on admittance in both 1999/2000 and 2001/02. The slight increase in the percentage that permitted adult men to be admitted may be explained by the increase in the reporting number of general emergency shelters. In total 1,581 adult men were admitted to shelters. Almost 8 in 10 (79%), were admitted to general emergency shelters. Five percent of the total number of adult men admitted (73) were admitted for reasons of abuse and of the 73 adult men admitted for reasons of abuse, 18 (4%) were admitted for family violence related abuse.

Criminal justice system involvement

Most provinces and territories currently have charging guidelines and procedures in place to respond to family violence. Shelters, however, are not required to report abuse of adults to the police. While not all precipitating events that lead women to shelters are by definition criminal acts requiring police response, 29% of women in shelters for reasons of abuse

⁸ The Kerby Rotary House in Calgary Alberta is a shelter designed to meet the needs of older victims of family violence by providing residential services to both female and male seniors over the age of 50. For more information on Kerby House please see "Family Violence in Canada: A Statistical Profile 2003."

How to get help

Organizations exist in most communities to provide abused persons with information and support. Recommended steps for taking action and getting help include the following:

- Keep yourself and your children safe.
- Refuse to take blame for the abuse.
- Call a friend or family member you trust.
- Call a shelter or crisis line.
- Call the police.
- Join a support group.
- See a counsellor.

Several of these steps for taking action and getting help are also appropriate for male victims of family abuse. Many large urban centres across Canada have private practitioners that offer support groups for abused men or have men's organizations that can direct individuals to available services.

Sources: Health Canada (1995), Canadian Association of Broadcasters (1996), The Denise House/Sedna Women's Shelter (1997), Nova Scotia Advisory Council on the Status of Women (1997), Government of Newfoundland and Labrador (1998), Tutty (1999).

In addition to the above recommendations there are programs and services across Canada designed to reach out and assist abused women. Listed below are three new programs and services available to women.

Shelternet

Linking women with local shelters is an essential part of a community-based response to violence against women. Shelternet was launched in August 2002 and it provides an entry point for acquiring information

and links to local shelters, experts, counselling and 24 hour help-line services. Shelternet also provides links to shelters, safety plans, questions and answers about shelter and abuse, and a secure area for shelters to share resources. To view this website visit www.shelternet.ca.

Support Link

The focus of Support Link is to keep victims safe through planning and awareness. The program offers free cell phones, airtime, 911 pre-programmed into the phone, and comprehensive personal safety planning. These services are offered to victims at risk of sexual assault, domestic violence and stalking. In order to qualify for the program the victims must meet certain criteria: have reported the situation to police, are not living with the accused, abide by all protective orders (such as restraining orders), willing to work with a Support Link coordinator to create a safety plan, maintain regular contact with the coordinator and accept terms of the agreement and have reasonable grounds to believe they are at risk and understand the limitations of the phone such as the possibility of dead zones. Support link is a joint initiative of the Government of Ontario, Rogers AT&T Wireless and Ericson Canada.

Hot Peach Pages

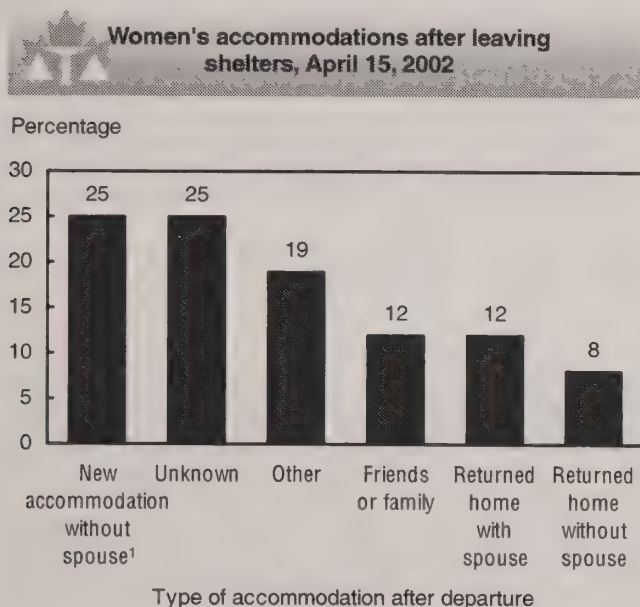
This program originated in Saskatchewan and is premised on the concept that phone books are a good source to reach out to abused women. This service is ideal for accessing initial information on abuse, education and referral resources. The peach page is a full page in the phone book with information about abuse and helping agencies. They also have a Web site that has or provides links to: abuse information in 40 languages, specific information targeted to certain people (teens, rural women, aboriginal people etc.), list of agencies in over 165 countries, web pages of listed agencies and more detailed information on abuse.

on April 15, 2002 had reported the most recent incident of abuse to the police. Charges were laid in 60% of these cases. An order for the abuser to stay away was given in 55% (up from 50% in 1999/2000) of cases reported to the police and in 91% of cases in which charges were laid (up from 81% in 1999/2000). The trend data, however, shows that the proportion of cases in which charges were laid has decreased over the three reporting periods (64% in 1998, 62% in 2000 and 60% in 2002).

Departures and Referrals

On April 15, 2002, 110 women and 64 children departed before noon from 430 shelters across Canada. A minority of women, only 12%, returned to their spouse. One quarter (25%) left the shelter for alternate housing, 12% went to stay with friends or relatives, 19% went to other housing, 8% returned home without their spouse and for 25% of women it was not known where they were going to reside (Figure 4).

Figure 4



¹ New accommodation without spouses includes second stage housing, another emergency shelter and other new accommodations without spouse.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Transition Home Survey, 2001/02.

The number of women and children who use shelters does not necessarily reflect the actual need, as it does not capture those who were referred elsewhere because of lack of space. For this reason, the Transition Home Survey asked shelters if they referred women and children elsewhere on snapshot day and the reason(s) for that referral. On April 15, 2002, 115 shelters reported that they referred 295 women and 257 children elsewhere. This represents an increase of 76 women and children from 1999/2000.⁹ A full three-quarters of these shelters (75%) could not accommodate these women and children because the shelter was full (up from 71% in 1999/2000). In

8% of shelters the reason for the referral was drug or alcohol issues (down from 12% in 1999/2000), 9% because of mental health problems, 3% because of non-admit or caution list (down from 7% in 1999/2000), and 17% because of other reasons (down from 30% in 1999/2000).¹⁰

The trend data also shows that the number of shelters that had to refer women and children elsewhere because the shelter was full increased by 10 percentage points over the two reporting periods (58% in 2000 and 68% in 2002)

Extensive variety of services offered

Canadian shelters provide services in all provinces and territories and serve a variety of areas. In 2001/02, 90% of shelters served urban areas compared to 88% in 1999/2000. Providing services to rural or remote communities and culturally appropriate services for aboriginal communities living on-reserve is one of the continuing challenges for shelters. In 2001/02, 42% of shelters served rural areas, down from 47% in 1999/2000. Twenty-eight percent of shelters provided services to reserves, down from 34% in 2001/02.¹¹

⁹ A person may be referred elsewhere more than once on snapshot day.
¹⁰ Percentages will not add to 100% due to multiple responses.
¹¹ Percentages will not add to 100% due to multiple responses.

Table 7

Areas of service by province and territory, 2001/02

| | Percentage serving: | | |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------|
| | Urban/suburban ¹ | Rural/village ² | Reserves ³ |
| Canada | 90 | 42 | 28 |
| Newfoundland and Labrador | 85 | 38 | 15 |
| Prince Edward Island | 100 | 0 | 0 |
| Nova Scotia | 89 | 61 | 22 |
| New Brunswick | 93 | 60 | 27 |
| Quebec | 88 | 37 | 15 |
| Ontario | 90 | 47 | 39 |
| Manitoba | 91 | 60 | 52 |
| Saskatchewan | 100 | 62 | 52 |
| Alberta | 94 | 50 | 47 |
| British Columbia | 93 | 28 | 26 |
| Yukon | 60 | 40 | 0 |
| Northwest Territories | 100 | 57 | 43 |
| Nunavut | 0 | 75 | 0 |

¹ Urban/suburban areas have minimum population concentrations of 1,000 and a population density of at least 400 people per square kilometre.

² Rural areas include small towns, villages, and other populated places with less than 1,000 population.

³ Reserves is defined by a tract of land set aside by the federal government for the use and benefit of a First Nations Band which is governed by Indian and Northern Affairs Canada.

Note: Percentages will not add to 100 due to multiple responses.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Transition Home Survey, 2001/02.

In addition to providing secure and safe accommodation, the majority of shelters offer a variety of services both to residents and to women living in the community. Services such as referrals, legal information, emotional support, transportation, crisis intervention and counselling are offered and are aimed at assisting women who have left abusive relationships to deal with complicated choices about supporting themselves and their children and the consequences associated with the violence. According to the 1999 General Social Survey, women in violent relationships reported experiencing anger (37%), confusion (35%) hurt or disappointment (27%), fear for personal safety (39%), fear for the safety of children (17%), low self-esteem (29%), depression and anxiety (27%), shame or guilt (19%), and sleeping problems (18%) (Hotton, 2001). Services provided by shelters attempt to address many of these issues and depend to a large extent on available funding and can vary with the availability of services in the larger community.

In 2001/02 shelters reported a drop in the percentage that provides group counselling and parenting skills to women residents. In 1997/98, 71% of shelters provided group counselling, in 1999/2000 this number dropped to 68% and in 2001/02 dropped further to 65%. Similarly, the percentage of shelters that provided parenting skills decreased from 82% in 1997/98 to 75% in 1999/2000 and 76% in 2001/02. The decline in some services offered to residents may be explained by the decline in the number of transition homes and the increase in the number of emergency shelters. The primary purpose of women's emergency centres and emergency shelters is short-term accommodation and therefore counselling type services

may fall outside the core shelter service of some. Additionally, services outside of a shelter's primary purpose may be more vulnerable to shifts in the availability of funding and resources.

The percentage of shelters that provided a crisis telephone line rose from 60% to 64% from 1997/98 to 1999/2000 and remained at 64% in 2001/02. The percentage that provided medical service rose from 55% in 1997/98 to 59% in 1999/2000 and dropped to 53% in 2001/02. Questions concerning addiction counselling and mental health services were added to the 2001/02 survey in order to provide a more complete picture of the range of client needs and services offered. Research indicates that coping with an abusive relationship creates considerable anxiety and may result in women experiencing depression, panic attacks, and substance abuse (Tutty, 1998). Over half of all shelters (56%) reported providing mental health services and 42% reported providing addiction counselling to women residents.

Services that remained unchanged from 1999/2000 to 2001/02 include individual, short-term counselling (89%), advocacy (87%), specialised services for women aged 55 and older (84%) and culturally sensitive services for Aboriginal women¹²

¹² Culturally sensitive services for Aboriginal women were such services as recognition of traditional healing methods, use of spiritual elders and teachers, accessibility to language interpreters and Aboriginal language materials, and recognition and understanding of Aboriginal cultural norms and beliefs.

Table 8

In-house services¹ provided by shelters to women residents, ex-residents and non-residents, 2001/02

| | In-house services provided by shelters to women: | | | | | |
|---|--|----|---------------|----|--------------|----|
| | Residents | | Non-residents | | Ex-residents | |
| | No. | % | No. | % | No. | % |
| Individual short-term counselling | 429 | 89 | 315 | 65 | 341 | 71 |
| Individual long-term counselling | 161 | 33 | 161 | 33 | 187 | 39 |
| Group counselling | 314 | 65 | 213 | 44 | 231 | 48 |
| Family counselling programs | 81 | 17 | 47 | 10 | 53 | 11 |
| Crisis telephone line | 310 | 64 | 334 | 69 | 318 | 66 |
| Medical services | 258 | 53 | 155 | 32 | 176 | 36 |
| Legal services | 329 | 68 | 244 | 51 | 261 | 54 |
| Financial assistance/welfare | 326 | 67 | 207 | 43 | 231 | 48 |
| Life skills | 341 | 71 | 161 | 33 | 207 | 43 |
| Job training/employment search | 138 | 29 | 71 | 15 | 101 | 21 |
| Parenting skills | 366 | 76 | 197 | 41 | 232 | 48 |
| Housing referral | 399 | 83 | 222 | 46 | 251 | 52 |
| Culturally sensitive services for Aboriginal women | 306 | 63 | 201 | 42 | 214 | 44 |
| Culturally sensitive services for ethno-cultural and visible minority women | 296 | 61 | 178 | 37 | 203 | 42 |
| Services for women with disabilities | 316 | 65 | 197 | 41 | 202 | 42 |
| Recreation services | 245 | 51 | 62 | 13 | 100 | 21 |
| Advocacy | 422 | 87 | 284 | 59 | 332 | 69 |
| Specialized services for older women (55+) | 410 | 84 | 95 | 20 | 101 | 21 |
| Other | 114 | 24 | 82 | 17 | 96 | 20 |

¹ Service reported as a percentage of 482 responding facilities.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Transition Home Survey, 2001/02.

(63%). Culturally sensitive services for ethno-cultural and visible minority residents¹³ also increased from 58% to 61%, as did services to women with disabilities (62% to 65%).

To gain more detailed information on the extent of accessibility of shelters, information was gathered on the wheelchair accessibility of buildings entrances, bedrooms and bathrooms. Sixty-nine percent of shelters reported at least one building entrance that was wheelchair accessible. One half (52%) of shelters reported having bedrooms that were wheelchair accessible and 58% reported having bathrooms that were wheelchair accessible. It should be noted that since the mid-1990s, many shelters have improved accessibility through CMHC's Shelter Enhancement Program. Twenty percent of shelters provided TDD/TTY services for people with hearing impairment, and 23% provided sign language communication or interpretation services. Eighteen percent of shelters provided large print reading materials to people who are visually impaired and 5% of shelters provided Braille reading materials.

Services to children

Services provided to children victims and witnesses of family violence are an important component of the services provided by shelters. In 2001/02, 80% of shelters provided indoor recreational space and 76% provided outdoor recreational space to child residents. Shelters also provided group counselling (56%) and programs for children who have witnessed or experienced abuse (68%), a drop from 75% in 1999/2000.

Results from the trend data file show that the services provided by shelters to child residents remained stable between 1998, 2000 and 2002.

Providing services to non-residents and ex-residents is also an important aspect of a shelter's overall workload. Shelters offer assistance to ex-resident women in need of on-going

support in order to deal with a variety of factors including further threats of abuse, safe long term housing, employment and legal assistance (Tutty, 2001). On snapshot day, 2002, shelters had 1.4 times as many requests for assistance from ex-residents and non-residents as there were women residing in shelters. Shelters in 2001/02 reported a slight decline from 1999/2000 in the services offered to both ex-residents and non-residents. Shelters provided assistance to non-residents¹⁴ through a 24-hour crisis telephone line (69%, down from 75%), individual short-term counselling (65%, down from 70%) advocacy (59%, down from 64%) and legal services (51%, down from 56%). The majority of facilities provided ex-resident¹⁵ women with services such as individual short-term counselling (71%), down from 74%, a 24-hour crisis telephone line (66%) down from 71%, advocacy (69%) down from 70%. Group counselling and legal services also declined in 2001/02 (52% to 48% and 59% to 54%, respectively). Again, the provision of services is associated with facility type and these declines may be associated with the shift to fewer transition homes and the growth in emergency shelters.

Services to ex-residents and non-residents are made through telephone, letter, fax or walk-in contact. On snapshot day, 482 shelters reported 1,547 housing related contacts and 3,149 non-housing related contacts for a one-day total of 4,818 requests for services. In an average month shelters reported 51,742 housing related contacts, and 71,916 non-housing related contacts.

¹³ Culturally sensitive services for ethno-cultural and visible minority women include accessibility to language interpreters, resource materials in various languages, and counsellors who are familiar with immigration issues and parenting styles in different cultures.

¹⁴ A non-resident was someone who has never resided in a shelter but was receiving services, while an ex-resident was someone who had resided in the shelter in the past and was receiving follow-up services.

¹⁵ An ex-resident is someone who has resided at a facility before and is receiving follow-up services.

Issues and Challenges

The Transition Homes Survey asks shelters to list the top three issues and challenges they will be facing in the coming year. Shelters identified lack of funding, space and affordable housing for women upon departure as the top three issues and challenges.

Issues related to lack of funding including:

- Cutbacks in services and funding for new services
- No funding for outreach programs
- Rising cost of utilities and rent
- No funds to train new staff and keep up training of hired staff
- Adequate staff
- Transportation costs
- Cutbacks to social assistance

Issues related to space including:

- Funding for new facilities
- Funding to renovate existing facilities
- Financial resources to maintain existing facilities
- Maximum occupancy rates (overcrowding) and longer periods of stay
- Lack of furniture and space for new beds
- Accessibility

Issues related to affordable housing including:

- Lack of subsidized long-term housing

The Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, who is in part responsible for providing funding to shelters for capital costs, reported that a major concern for shelters was difficulty in providing services due to limited budgets, resources, space and staff. (*Children and Youth in Homeless Families: Shelter Spaces and Services*, May 2001).

Many of these concerns for the up-coming year are reflected in inquest reports dating back to 1998. In July 1998, an Ontario coroner's inquest into the murder of Arlene May by her former boyfriend, Randy Iles, made 213 recommendations. The general recommendations included increasing public awareness of domestic violence and its effect on victims and witness. The Ministry of Community and Social Services also recommended a zero-tolerance policy as well as a review of funding for shelters for abused women and children.

Also in Ontario, a coroner's inquest was ordered for the murder of Gillian Hadley by her husband in June 2000. Many of the 58 recommendations made mirrored those in the 1998 Arlene May inquest. One of the recommendations made in the Hadley inquest looked to the shortage of safe temporary accommodation available to women immediately after they flee the abusive relationship as well as long-term assistance in the form of subsidized housing. It was also recommended that all community-based women's anti-violence services, including shelters, be adequately funded.

Following the recommendations, the Ontario government set up the Joint Committee on Domestic Violence to oversee the implementation of the jury's recommendations.

Shelters also often work together in multi-agency co-ordination committees to provide services and referrals to their residents. The majority of facilities were able to link to services in the community for their residents in the areas of job training or employment search, mental health services, legal services (71% each), financial assistance or welfare (68%), medical services (69%), and individual long-term counselling (57%).

Services provided in a variety of languages

As Canada's population has become increasingly diverse, many shelters have responded by ensuring that they have staff or volunteers who can communicate and deliver services in a variety of languages. In 2001/02, 99% of shelters reported that they could provide services in English, 60% in French, 24% in Vietnamese, 12% in Spanish, 12% in Ukrainian, 13% in Greek, 9% in Chinese, 9% in Punjabi. Twenty-five percent of shelters can communicate and deliver services in Aboriginal languages (4% in Inuktituk, 9% in Ojibway and 12% in Cree) (Table 9).

Table 9

| Languages in which shelters, provided services, 2001/02 | | |
|---|--------|------------|
| | Number | Percentage |
| English | 481 | 99 |
| French | 291 | 60 |
| Vietnamese | 118 | 24 |
| Greek | 64 | 13 |
| Ukrainian | 59 | 12 |
| Cree | 56 | 12 |
| Spanish | 56 | 12 |
| Arabic | 45 | 9 |
| Punjabi | 45 | 9 |
| Chinese | 44 | 9 |
| Ojibway | 45 | 9 |
| Dutch | 38 | 8 |
| German | 38 | 8 |
| Tagalog | 35 | 7 |
| Portuguese | 30 | 6 |
| Other | 26 | 5 |
| Inuktituk | 19 | 4 |
| Italian | 19 | 4 |
| Polish | 19 | 4 |

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Transition Home Survey, 2001/02.

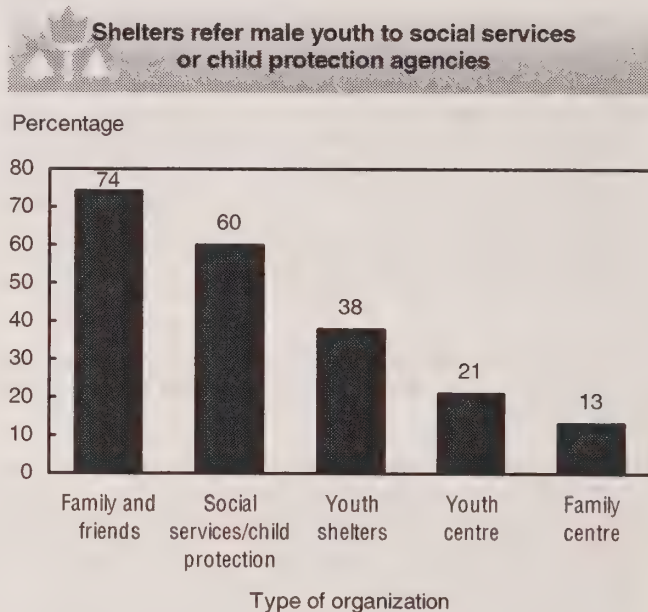
Admission of male youth

Shelters for abused women often have criteria to determine who is eligible for admission. While the objective of shelters is to provide residential services for abused women and their dependent children, limits are sometimes imposed on the age of male youth accompanying their mothers. The admittance of male youth depends on a number of factors including age, size of the youth and behaviour such as aggression. The existence of an age limit was reported by 72% of shelters; however of those shelters, 33% indicated that each case is reviewed individually. Twenty-four percent of shelters reported that while there is no set age limit for male youth, each case is reviewed individually before deciding whether or not to admit. For the remaining 4% of shelters, children were not accepted.

For those shelters that admitted male youth up to an age limit, with or without reviewing each case individually, 23% had an age limit of 16, 19% had an age limit of 18, 12% had an age limit of 14, and 8% had an age limit of 15.

For shelters that refer male youth elsewhere, either because they have an age limit or because the youth is referred elsewhere, a full three-quarters (74%) referred male youth to family or friends, 60% to social service/child protection agencies, 38% to youth shelters, 21% to youth centres, and 13% to family service centres (Figure 5). With the exception of referrals to family and friends, the breakdown of the type of organizations the male youth were referred to remained consistent with 1999/2000.

Figure 5



Note: Figures do not add to 100% due to multiple responses. Percentages are based on the responses of 229 facilities that referred male youth to other organizations.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Transition Home Survey, 2001/02.

Revenues and Expenditures

The total combined income of the 451 shelters that reported their annual revenues and expenditures was \$214 million while the total amount of operating expenditures was \$212 million. This compares to \$171 million in revenues and \$170 million in expenditures in 1997/98, the last time this question was included on the survey. Of the 409 shelters that provided detailed revenue breakdowns in 2001/02, 85% of revenues came from government sources (up from 82% in 1997/98), a total of \$150 million from federal, provincial/territorial, regional, municipal governments and Aboriginal bands (up from \$140 million in 1997/98).

In 2001/02 shelters also received a total of \$26 million from non-governmental sources such as donations, fund raising, provincial/territorial lotteries, resident fees, loans and grants (for major repairs and improvements) and the United Way (a drop from \$30 million in 1997/98).

Data Sources

Transition Home Survey

The Transition Home Survey was developed under the federal government's Family Violence Initiative in consultation with provincial/territorial governments and transition home associations. The objectives of the survey are to collect information on residential services for abused women and their children during the previous twelve months of operation as well as to provide a one-day snapshot of the clients being served on a specific day. In 1991/92, Statistics Canada began collecting basic information on transition home services and clientele. The survey was repeated with some changes in 1992/93, 1994/95, 1997/98, and 1999/2000.

The Transition Home Survey is a mail-out/mail-back census survey of all residential facilities providing services to abused women and their children. Of the 524 residential facilities providing services to abused women and their children, 482 returned their questionnaires for a response rate of 92%. Separate questionnaires were completed for facilities that had two or more residences under the same name or address.

Violence Against Women Survey (VAWS)

In 1993, Statistics Canada conducted the VAWS on behalf of Health Canada. It was conducted by telephone using random digit dialing techniques. A total of 12,300 women aged 18 years and older were interviewed about their experiences of physical and sexual violence since the age of 16, their responses to these experiences, and their perceptions of their personal safety. Responses were weighted to represent the 10.5 million women in the Canadian population. Estimates were made of both twelve-month and adult lifetime rates of violence.

The General Social Survey (GSS) on Victimization

The GSS is an annual survey that monitors changes in Canadian society and provides information on specific policy issues of current or emerging interest. Each year, the GSS focuses on various regular topics (including time use, social support, the family, technology and victimization). In 1999, Statistics Canada conducted the victimization cycle of the GSS for a third time. Previous cycles were conducted in 1988 and in 1993. The objectives of the survey are to provide estimates of the prevalence of eight offence types (based on the Criminal Code definitions for these crimes) in the population, to examine factors related to the risk of victimization, victims' willingness to report crimes to the police, reasons for not reporting, and to measure public perceptions of crime and the criminal justice system.

The GSS is a telephone sample survey covering the non-institutionalized population aged 15 years or more in the ten provinces. A total of approximately 26,000 people were interviewed with a response rate of 81.3%.

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CRIME STATISTICS IN CANADA, 2002

by Marnie Wallace

Highlights

- Canada's crime rate was relatively stable (-0.6%) in 2002. The crime rate has been generally declining since the early 1990s, and now stands at about the same level as in 1979.
- While most crimes dropped in 2002, increases were seen in homicides, drug offences, prostitution and fraud/counterfeiting.
- Among the provinces, Prince Edward Island, Newfoundland and Labrador, Alberta and New Brunswick reported the largest increases in crime rates. Quebec and Ontario reported the largest declines. As a result, crime rates in the Atlantic Provinces are now generally higher than in Quebec and Ontario. Saskatchewan's crime rate continues to be the highest among the provinces.
- Violent crimes accounted for 13% of the 2.4 million *Criminal Code* offences, excluding traffic, reported by police in 2002. A further 52% were property crimes, and 35% were "other" *Criminal Code* incidents (such as mischief and disturbing the peace).
- The rate of violent crime dropped 2% in 2002. The violent crime rate has been generally declining over the past decade. The decrease was driven by a 3% decline in the rate of robberies and a 2% decline in assaults.
- The homicide rate increased 4% in 2002. There were 582 homicides in 2002, 29 more than the previous year. The increase in the number of homicides at the national level was driven by a large increase in British Columbia, up from 84 homicides in 2001 to 126 in 2002. Part of this increase is a result of homicide investigations undertaken by the *Missing Women's Task Force* in Port Coquitlam, B.C. which resulted in 15 homicides which occurred in previous years being reported by police in 2002.
- The property crime rate remained relatively stable in 2002 (-0.8%). The rate of property crimes has been decreasing over the past decade. The rate of break-ins dropped 3% and vehicle thefts were down 5%, while frauds increased by 4%.
- Following the first increase in impaired driving offences in nearly 20 years in 2001, police reported a 3% decrease in impaired driving in 2002.
- The rate of drug offences increased for the ninth consecutive year, up 3%. Since 1992, drug offences have increased by 42%. The rate of cannabis offences was up 2% in 2002, cocaine offences were stable (+1%), and "other" drug offences, including synthetic drugs such as ecstasy and methamphetamine, were up 11%.
- Cannabis offences account for 3 out of every 4 drug offences reported by police in Canada. Of these offences, nearly three-quarters (72%) are for possession of less than 30 grams.
- The rate of youths charged by police dropped 5% in 2002, continuing the downward trend seen over the past decade. Youth violent crime was down 2%, following two years of increases, while youth property crime dropped 5% to its lowest level in over 25 years.

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Introduction

To measure the magnitude, nature and impact of criminal behaviour, there are two main sources of information in Canada: police-reported crime data and victimization surveys. While police-reported data measure crimes known to the police, victimization surveys collect information directly from the general population, regardless of whether the crime was reported to police.

This report is an examination of 2002 police-reported crime in Canada. Data are presented within the context of both short and long-term trends. The analysis focuses on trends in violent crime, property crime, impaired driving offences, drug offences and youth crime. Crime rates are examined at the national, provincial/territorial and census metropolitan area levels. The trend in Canada's crime rate is put into perspective by comparing it with the United States and England and Wales. Detailed information on incidents and accused persons is also presented where appropriate. An electronic report with detailed crime tables will be released at a later date.

Since 1962, Canada's police agencies have reported criminal incidents that come to their attention, or that are detected through police investigation, to the Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics (CCJS) through the Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) survey (see methodology section for a description of the survey). The CCJS gratefully acknowledges the assistance of Canada's police agencies and the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police in making this report possible.

Interpreting police-reported crime data

Incidents that come to the attention of the police are captured and forwarded to the CCJS according to a nationally-approved set of common crime categories and definitions. The reader should note, however, that many factors may influence police-reported crime statistics. These include: reporting by the public to the police; reporting by police to the CCJS; the impact of new initiatives such as changes in legislation, policies or enforcement practices; and, social, economic and demographic changes.

Reporting to police

There are many reasons why victims may not report criminal incidents to police. According to the 1999 General Social Survey (GSS), these reasons include: the level of perceived seriousness of the incident; not wanting to involve the police; and, fear of reprisals from the aggressor or other negative consequences of criminal justice system intervention. However, other factors such as the desire to see the offender punished, social obligation to report criminal behaviour, as well as the need to obtain a police report for insurance purposes, may encourage people to report certain types of criminal offences to police.¹

Victimization surveys provide estimates of all crimes, including those not reported to police. The failure to report crimes to the police can lead to an under-counting of crime in official police statistics. Further, the tolerance of Canadians for certain types of crimes may affect crime rates. For example, greater awareness by the public, police and prosecutors in the areas of family violence, sexual assault and youth crime may lower society's tolerance for these behaviours, which in turn, may encourage victims and witnesses to report to police and encourage police to lay charges.

The most recent Victimization survey was undertaken in 1999 and collected information on eight crime categories. It found that the rates for sexual assault, robbery, assault, break and enter, theft of motor vehicle/parts, and vandalism did not change significantly between 1993 and 1999. However, increased rates were observed for the theft of personal property and household property.

¹ Besserer, S and Trainor, C., "Criminal Victimization in Canada", *Juristat*, Catalogue 85-002, Vol. 20, No. 10, p. 11 & 12, 2000.

Police-reported data from the UCR survey for the same period indicated a declining rate for each of these crime categories. According to the GSS, the percentage of Canadians reporting criminal incidents to police declined between 1993 and 1999. For the eight GSS crime types, 37% of incidents were reported to police in 1999, down slightly from 42% in 1993.² The main reason cited by victims for not reporting was because the incident was deemed "not important enough".

Reporting by police to the UCR Survey

Crimes reported to the UCR Survey by police agencies are subject to numerous quality-control procedures, both on-site at the police agency and at Statistics Canada. Statistics Canada and police agencies work together on an ongoing basis to detect and resolve any difficulties in the reporting of data. Once the data have been processed and edited at Statistics Canada, police services are required to "sign-off" on the final data before it is published.

Changes in legislation, policies and practices

Changes in legislation, policies and police enforcement practices may also have an impact on police-reported statistics. For instance, where an amendment to the *Criminal Code* creates a new offence or broadens the definition of an existing offence, the number of incidents reported to and by police will likely increase.

For certain crimes, the number of offences reported is largely driven by police enforcement. Crimes such as prostitution, drug offences and impaired driving are most often identified through police-enforcement activities, or "proactive" policing, and are rarely reported by the public. Therefore, police enforcement efforts, such as special operations to target these types of crimes, will affect official crime statistics.

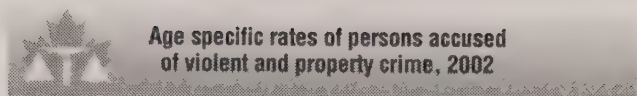
Changing demographics

Young persons, those aged 15 to 24 and 25 to 34, have higher rates of offending and victimization than other age groups (Figure 1). In 2002, those aged 15 to 24 represented 13% of the total population while accounting for 46% of those charged with property crimes and 31% of persons charged with violent crimes. In particular, those between 15 and 18 years of age are in the highest risk group for committing both violent and property crimes. Those 25 to 34 years of age accounted for 14% of the population, 18% of property offenders and 24% of violent offenders.

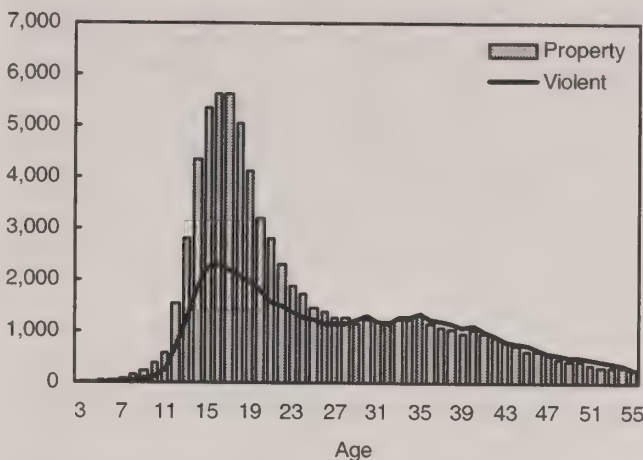
As a result of the higher rates of offending among persons aged 15 to 24 and 25 to 34, and in the absence of changes in any other factors associated with offending behaviours, crime rates can be expected to drop as their share of the population declines. Figure 2 shows that the general decline in crime rates since the early 1990s coincided with a decrease in the proportion of persons aged 15 to 24 and 25 to 34 in the population throughout this time period. Throughout the 1960s and 1970s, as baby-boomers were reaching crime prone ages, there was a corresponding increase in the overall crime rate.

Fluctuations in other social or economic conditions may interact with demographic shifts to affect crime rates. For instance, the Easterlin thesis puts forth the idea that the abilities and

Figure 1



Rate per 100,000 population



Source: Incident-Based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, CCJS.

resources of our institutions of social control (such as family or schools) are strained in the face of relatively large birth cohorts, and as a result, the members of these large birth cohorts are likely to experience less social control in childhood and adolescence.³ This lack of social control may result in higher numbers of youth and young adults becoming involved in crime. Furthermore, Ouimet⁴ contends that a very large cohort of young people born in Canada during the 1960s had higher levels of criminal involvement than any other, due to more serious difficulties integrating into the job market during the recession in the early 1980s.

2002 Crime Trends

Of the 2.4 million *Criminal Code* incidents (excluding traffic offences and other federal statutes such as drug offences) reported to police in 2002, 13% were violent crimes, 52% were property crimes, and 35% were "other" *Criminal Code* crimes such as mischief, bail violations, and disturbing the peace (Table 1). Twenty-five years ago property crimes made up 64% of all *Criminal Code* incidents, but that proportion has declined steadily since then. In contrast, the proportion of incidents that are classified as "other" *Criminal Code* offences has been increasing since 1977 when it was only 28%. Violent offences have increased slightly from 8% to 13% of all *Criminal Code* incidents in the past twenty-five years.

² Ibid, Besserer, S and Trainor, C., (2000), p. 11.

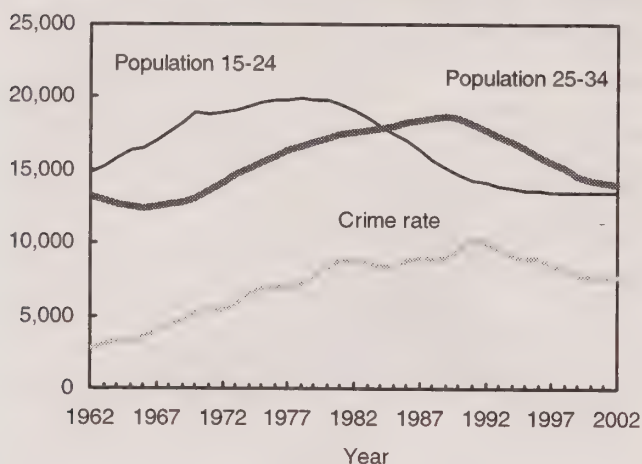
³ South, S.J. et al, "Crime and demography: multiple linkages, reciprocal relations", Annual Review of Sociology. Vol. 26 (2000). P. 83-106.

⁴ Ouimet, M. (2002) "Explaining the American and Canadian crime drop in the 1990s", Canadian Journal of Criminology 44 (1) :33-50.

Figure 2

Crime Rate and Selected Demographics, Canada, 1962-2002¹

Rate per 100,000 total population



¹ Note that the population 15 - 24 and population 25-34 lines refer to populations in these age groups and not crime rates.

Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, CCJS and Annual Demographic Statistics, 2002 Report catalogue no. 91-213-XIB.

Key terminology and definitions

Offence or crime

These two terms refer to the number of *Criminal Code* "actual" incidents reported by police to CCJS. The number of actual *Criminal Code* offences does not include traffic offences and other federal statutes such as drug offences, unless noted otherwise. "Actual" incidents are those which have been substantiated through police investigation.

Criminal Incident

One incident can include more than one offence. For incidents involving multiple offences, only the most serious offence in the incident is counted. Unless otherwise stated, violent crime counts reflect the number of victims in the incident, whereas non-violent crime counts reflect the number of incidents or occurrences of crime.

Crime rate

Crime rates are based on the number of incidents reported to police per 100,000 population. Rates are used to make comparisons among geographic areas with different populations and over time.

Accused persons

This includes all persons identified by police as having committed a crime as a result of an investigation, regardless of whether or not they have been formally charged.

Persons charged

This term refers to persons who have been formally charged or recommended to be charged by police.

For more information on the UCR Survey, refer to the Methodology section at the end of this report, and *Canadian Crime Statistics*, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Catalogue 85-205.

Additionally, there were approximately 118,000 *Criminal Code* traffic incidents (7 out of 10 were impaired driving offences), 93,000 drug incidents and 40,000 other federal statute incidents (e.g. Immigration Act, Canada Shipping Act) reported. In total, police reported 2.6 million criminal incidents in 2002.

Crime rate stable

Canada's crime rate was relatively stable in 2002 (-0.6%). The crime rate has generally been declining since the early 1990s. The police-reported crime rate in 2002 (7,590 incidents per 100,000 population) was at about the same level as in 1979 (Table 2). While the crime rate has declined an average of 3% per year (Table 2) since 1991, the 2002 crime rate remains 9% higher than the rate 25 years ago.

The rate of both property crime (-0.8%) and "Other" Criminal Code offences (+0.1%) (such as mischief and disturbing the peace) remained fairly stable this year. The rate of violent crime, however, decreased by 2%.

Reporting Changes to Ontario Data

The crime statistics collected directly from police forces across the country are subject to editing and revision each year. During the revision of the 2001 data for the province of Ontario, a discrepancy in methodology applied by the forces in the province using the Ontario Municipal & Provincial Police Automated Co-operative (OMPPAC) system was detected. These forces report approximately one-third of the total criminal incidents for the province and include the OPP and most of the 41 small and mid-sized municipal forces.

This discrepancy resulted in an over-count of less serious criminal incidents in cases where more than one offence type was associated within the same incident (please see the Methodology section for a description of the Uniform Crime Reporting Survey scoring rules). The net effect was an over-count of the total number of criminal incidents in Ontario for 2001 by about 4%. At the national level, this produced an over-count of criminal incidents of approximately 1%.

The data revision disproportionately affects incident counts for less serious offences that most frequently occur in combination with other offence types. For example, counts for the "possession of stolen property", which often occur during the same incident as the more serious offence of "break & enter", have been revised downward by 13% for Ontario for 2001, while counts for "break & enters" have been revised downward by 3% (see the methodology section for a listing of the impact for other offences).

Comparisons of the revised Ontario data for 2001 and the 2002 data to earlier years should be made with caution as further analysis of the impact on the Ontario time series prior to 2001 has not yet been completed. This analysis may result in a revision to the historical time series to improve the comparability of the historical information.

International trends

Preliminary data from the Federal Bureau of Investigation indicate that the U.S. Crime Index remained relatively stable (-0.2%) in 2002.⁵ Violent crime in the U.S. dropped by 1% in 2002, including a 2% decline in aggravated assault and a 1% decline in robbery. Property crime remained virtually unchanged, compared to last year. Larceny-theft was relatively stable (-0.7%) and arson recorded a 4% decrease, while burglary and motor vehicle theft both increased by 1%.

⁵ U.S. Department of Justice, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Press Release—Preliminary Uniform Crime Report, 2002. <http://www.fbi.gov/pressrel/pressrel03/12month2002.htm>

Reported crime in England and Wales increased an estimated 2% in 2002.⁶ In 2002, violent crime accounted for 16% of all recorded crime, and increased an estimated 2% from the previous year. Among property crimes, domestic burglary increased 5% and other burglary increased 6%.

Crime rate up in Atlantic Provinces

There is considerable regional variation in crime rates across Canada (Table 3). Historically, crime rates have increased from east to west in Canada. However, crime rates in the Atlantic Provinces now surpass rates in Quebec and Ontario. As well, Alberta's rate is considerably lower than those of the other Western provinces.

Provincial crime rates ranged from a low of 5,697 per 100,000 population in Quebec, to a high of 13,368 in Saskatchewan in 2002. All three territories reported crime rates that were nearly, or more than, double that of any of the provinces.

Among the provinces reporting increases in crime rates between 2001 and 2002, Prince Edward Island recorded the largest, at 12%. Due to Prince Edward Island's small population base, its crime rate is subject to fairly large year-to-year changes. In this province both violent crime (+15%) and property crime (+8%) increased in 2002. Newfoundland and Labrador (+3%), Alberta and New Brunswick (both up 2%) reported increases as well, as did all three territories. Québec and Ontario reported the largest declines (-2%) between 2001 and 2002.

Saskatchewan is the only province to have shown an increase in crime over the past decade. Its crime rate has increased 16%, from 11,529 per 100,000 population in 1992 to 13,368 in 2002. Manitoba's crime rate has remained virtually unchanged over this time. The remaining provinces have all seen declines in their crime rates.

Crime in census metropolitan areas

In 2002 the crime rate increased in only two of the nine largest census metropolitan areas (CMAs)⁷ (Table 4). These nine CMAs represent 46% of all offences reported by police services in Canada, and almost half (49%) of the population of Canada. The increases were reported by Edmonton and Ottawa,⁸ up 5% and 3% respectively. The increases were driven by increased property crime rates and, in the case of Ottawa, "other" crime rates. Of those CMAs reporting decreases, the largest occurred in Hamilton (-8%).

Among the sixteen smaller CMAs with populations between 100,000 and 500,000, the largest declines were reported in Regina (-12%) and Saguenay (-8%). Police in Regina attribute this drop to three main factors: increased personnel and related deployment strategies; intervention and prevention initiatives with youth; and the formation of working partnerships with government and community organisations.⁹ The largest increases in crime rates were seen in Saint John (18%) and St. John's (7%).

Among all 25 CMAs¹⁰ the lowest crime rate was reported by Saguenay (4,233 incidents per 100,000 population) followed by Trois-Rivières (4,716), Québec (4,905) and Toronto (5,281). The highest rates were reported by Regina (14,159) and

Saskatoon (13,234). Regina has had the highest crime rate of all the CMAs every year since 1995.

A number of factors are likely to affect a city's crime rate, among them the age of the people living there. Persons aged 15 to 24 tend to exhibit the highest rates of offending, leading to the expectation that those CMAs with higher than average proportions of people in that age group may also exhibit higher than average crime rates. In Canada, 12.5% of the population falls between the ages of 15 and 24. The CMAs with the highest crime rates, Regina and Saskatoon, both have higher than average proportions of young people, with 15.0% of the population being between the ages of 15 and 24 in Regina, and 14.4% in Saskatoon. As well, three of the four CMAs with the lowest crime rates have lower than average proportions of young people. Factors other than age influence a city's crime rate as well, such as unemployment rates and high concentrations of low income.

In many instances, a single CMA will comprise a number of individual police services. Examining specific police services can give us a clearer picture of how and where crime rates are changing (Table 6). For example, the crime rate in the Toronto CMA fell slightly (-1%) in 2002. When looking at crime rates by police service, however, it becomes clear that this drop was driven by a 9% decrease in the crime rate in Durham, and a 3% decline in Halton. The Toronto Police Service was also down (-1%). One police service within the Toronto CMA, however, reported an increase in its crime rate: York Region was up 3% over the previous year.

Violent Crime

Violent crime down slightly

There were approximately 300,000 violent crimes reported by police in Canada in 2002. Violent crime includes homicide, attempted murder, assault, sexual assault, other assaults, other sexual offences, abduction and robbery (Figure 3). Assault level 1 represents nearly two-thirds (63%) of this category. Throughout the 1980s and early 1990s the rate of violent crime in Canada increased steadily. Since 1993, violent crime has been generally declining, including a 2% decrease in 2002. By 2002, the rate of violent crime in Canada was 11% lower

⁶ See Povey, D., et al, *Crime in England and Wales: Quarterly Update, 12 months to September 2002*. Home Office, England, January 2003. The percentage change figures from this report are based on the actual numbers of incidents and not rates.

⁷ A census metropolitan area refers to a large urban core (over 100,000 population) together with adjacent urban and rural areas that have a high degree of economic and social integration. In this report, the CMA boundaries have been modified slightly in order to more accurately reflect policing boundaries. The areas that police forces serve may differ in their mix of urban/suburban populations, making the comparability of crime rates among these forces difficult. This lack of comparability is addressed by analyzing crime rates by CMA. Usually, more than one police force is responsible for enforcing law within the boundaries of a single census metropolitan area.

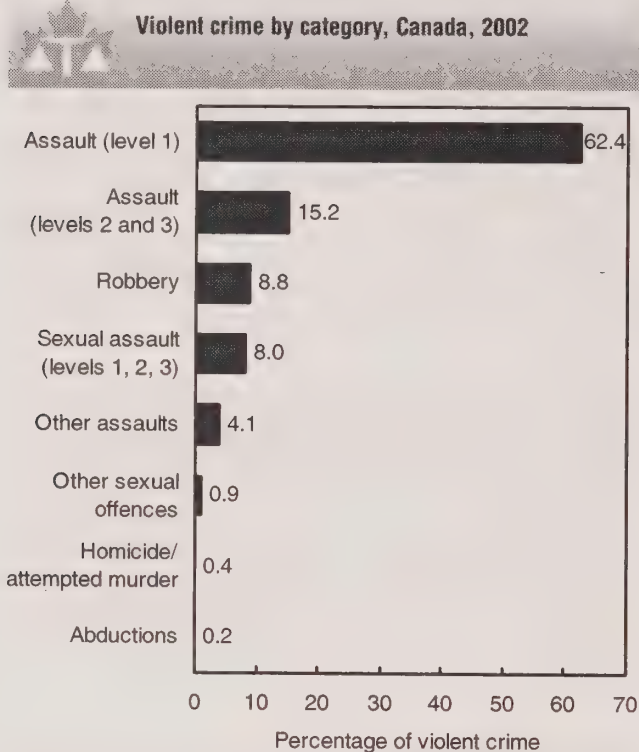
⁸ "Ottawa" in this report refers to the Ontario portion of the Ottawa-Gatineau CMA.

⁹ Regina Police Source, May 30, 2003.

¹⁰ The Oshawa census metropolitan area is excluded from this analysis due to incongruity between the police agency jurisdictional boundaries and the CMA boundaries.

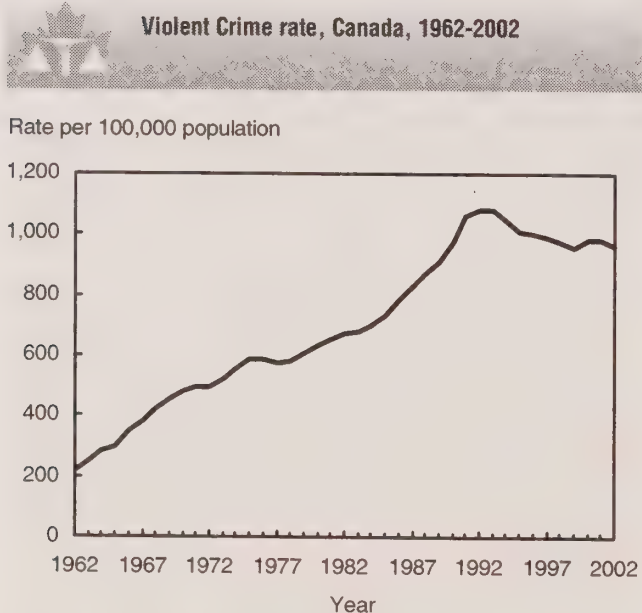
than in 1992, but still two-thirds higher than 25 years ago (Figure 4).

Figure 3



Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, CCJS.

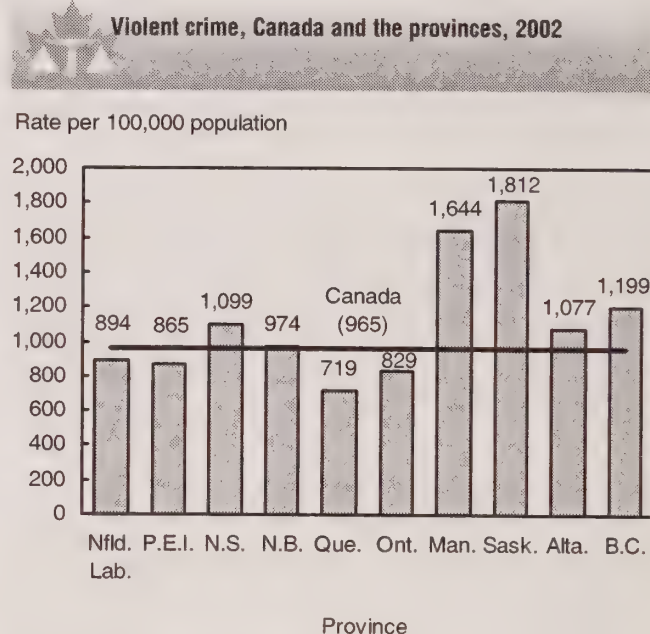
Figure 4



Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, CCJS.

For the fourth consecutive year, Saskatchewan recorded the highest rate of violent crime of all the provinces, at 1,812 incidents per 100,000 population (Table 3). Manitoba reported the next highest violent crime rate, at 1,644. The rates in these provinces were considerably higher than in the rest of the provinces (Figure 5), though lower than all three territories. Quebec continued an 8-year trend by reporting the lowest rate of violent crime in the country, at 719 incidents per 100,000 population. The second lowest rate was recorded in Ontario, at 829.

Figure 5



Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, CCJS.

Ontario (-5%) recorded the largest decrease in violent crime rates among the provinces. New Brunswick and Alberta experienced declines of about 2% each, while the rate in British Columbia was down slightly (-1%). Among the provinces reporting increases, the largest were in Prince Edward Island (+15%), and Nova Scotia (+6%).

All of the nine largest CMAs reported decreases in violent crime rates. The most significant drops occurred in Toronto and Calgary, both down 7%, and in Hamilton, down 6%.

Among the remaining 16 CMAs, nine reported declines in violent crime rates. Most notable were a 10% decline in Kitchener and a 9% decline in Windsor. Of the CMAs reporting increases in violent crime rates in 2002, Trois-Rivières recorded the largest jump (+27%), followed by Saguenay (+13%) and St. Catharines-Niagara (+6%).

Among all 25 CMAs, Saskatoon (1,625), Regina (1,503) and Thunder Bay (1,327) reported the highest violent crime rates, as has been the case for the past four years. The violent crime rate in Regina, however, was the lowest it has been since 1996. The lowest rates were seen in Sherbrooke (483), Saguenay (491) and Québec (513).

Homicide rate increases

Homicide includes first and second degree murder, manslaughter, and infanticide. In 2002 there were 582 homicides and 682 attempted murders. Together these crimes account for a very small proportion of violent crimes, less than half of one percent.

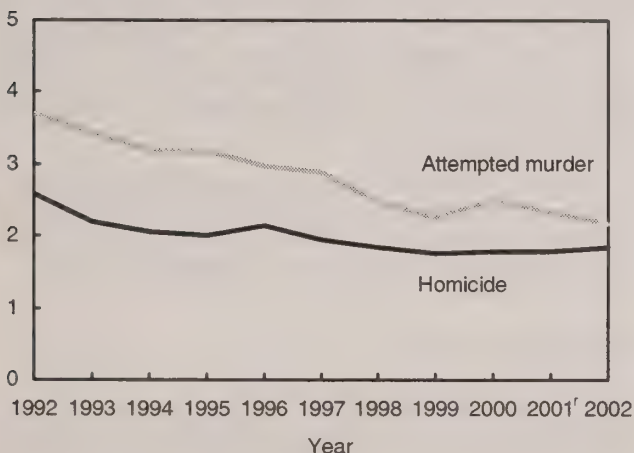
After two years of stability, the homicide rate increased by 4% in 2002. This is the first increase in the homicide rate since 1996.

The rate of attempted murders experienced its second straight decline in 2002, down 7% from the previous year. Figure 6 illustrates the general decline in both homicide and attempted murder rates over the past decade.

Figure 6

Homicide and attempted murder incidents, Canada, 1992-2002¹

Rate per 100,000 population



¹ revised

¹ Homicide investigations undertaken by the Missing Women's Task Force in Port Coquitlam, B.C. resulted in 15 homicides being reported by police in 2002. Homicide counts reflect the year in which police file the report.

Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, CCJS.

The increase in the number of homicides at the national level (+29) was driven by a large increase in British Columbia, up from 84 homicides in 2001 to 126 in 2002. Part of this increase is a result of homicide investigations undertaken by the *Missing Women's Task Force* in Port Coquitlam, B.C. which resulted in 15 homicides being reported by police in 2002. Four provinces experienced fewer homicides in 2002 than 2001, with the largest decline in Quebec (from 140 homicides in 2001 to 118 in 2002). The rate of homicides in Quebec in 2002 (1.6 per 100,000 population) was the lowest it has been in over 25 years.

Manitoba reported the highest homicide rate among the provinces, at 3.1 incidents per 100,000 population. British Columbia and Saskatchewan followed closely with rates of 3.0 and 2.7 respectively. The lowest rates among the provinces occurred on the east coast, with Newfoundland and Labrador

and Prince Edward Island reporting rates of less than 1 per 100,000 population.

Nine of the 25 CMAs reported a decrease in homicides in 2002. The highest rates of homicide were reported by Saskatoon (3.4), Winnipeg (3.4), and Vancouver (3.3).

Of all persons charged with homicide in 2002, 9% were youths aged 12-17. Although the number of youths charged with homicide increased from 30 in 2001 to 42 in 2002, it should be noted that the 2001 figure was the lowest it has been in over 30 years. The rate of youths charged with homicide has been generally decreasing since 1995. Among the provinces, Manitoba reported the highest rate of youths charged with homicide, at 6.9 incidents per 100,000 youths, followed by British Columbia at 3.4. There were no homicides committed by youth in Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia or Saskatchewan in 2002.

Sexual assaults remain stable

Sexual assault is classified into one of three levels according to the seriousness of the incident: level 1 (the category of least physical injury to the victim); level 2 (sexual assault with a weapon, threats to use a weapon, or causing bodily harm); and level 3 (sexual assault that wounds, maims, disfigures or endangers the life of the victim). Sexual assaults accounted for 8% of all violent crimes in 2002. Of the over 24,000 sexual assault incidents reported by police, 98% were classified as level 1.

The rate of sexual assaults in Canada has remained virtually unchanged over the past four years. After increasing steadily throughout the 1980s, the sexual assault rate peaked in the early 1990s before experiencing six years of generally large declines. The rate in 2002 (78 incidents per 100,000 population) was at about the same level as it was in 1986. All three levels of sexual assault have decreased over the past decade. The rate of level 1 assaults is down 35%, the rate of level 2 assaults is down 64%, and the rate of level 3 assaults is down 65% from 1992.

Five provinces reported a decrease in sexual assault rates in 2002. New Brunswick's 12% drop was the largest, followed by a 9% decline in sexual assaults in Newfoundland and Labrador and an 8% drop in British Columbia. Prince Edward Island (+32%) and Quebec (+16%) reported the largest increases, although Quebec continues to have the lowest rate. The province reporting the highest rate of sexual assaults was Saskatchewan, with a rate of 147 incidents per 100,000 population.

Nine of the 25 CMAs reported decreases in sexual assaults in 2002. The largest were reported by Saint John (-32%), St. John's (-21%) and Windsor (-21%). The largest increases occurred in Saguenay (+93%), Trois-Rivières (+44%) and Sherbrooke (+26%).

For the third time in four years Saskatoon reported the highest rate of sexual assaults among all 25 CMAs, at 144 incidents per 100,000 population. Sudbury reported the next highest rate (115), followed by Winnipeg (104). The lowest rates were seen in Ottawa (38), Windsor (49) and Trois-Rivières (50).

First decline in assaults in three years

In 2002, police reported almost 240,000 incidents of assault, down 2% from the previous year. This is the first decline in assaults in three years. The 2002 rate is about the same as it was in 1991.

Assaults account for over three-quarters of all violent crime. They are classified into four categories: common assault, known as level 1 assault; assault with a weapon, or causing bodily harm (level 2 assault); aggravated assault (level 3 assault); and "other" assaults, including assault on a peace officer, unlawfully causing bodily harm, and all other assaults.

Common assaults account for 4 out of every 5 assaults and 3 out of every 5 violent crimes. Behaviours such as pushing, slapping, punching, and face-to-face threats are included in this category, and occurred at a rate of 602 incidents per 100,000 population in 2002. This is a 2% decrease from 2001. Of the remaining three levels of assault, the rate of aggravated assault showed a 2% decline while assault with a weapon and "other" assaults remained virtually unchanged in 2002.

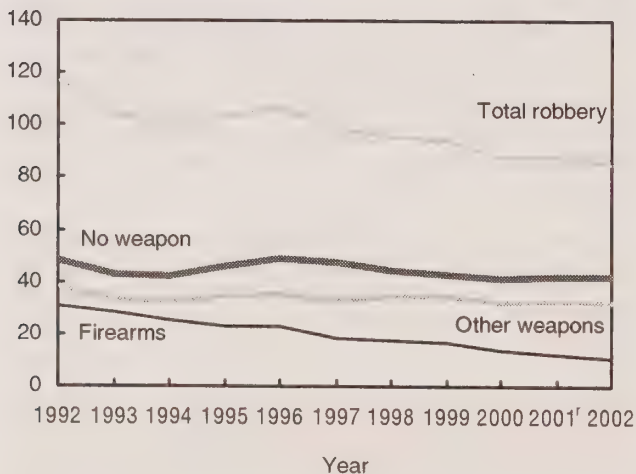
Robbery rate resumes downward trend

The rate of robbery in Canada resumed its downward trend, with a 3% decline in 2002. The almost 27,000 robberies reported by police in 2002 accounted for 9% of all violent crimes. Nearly half of these robberies were committed without a weapon present. A further 13% were committed with a firearm, and the remaining 38% with a weapon other than a firearm. All three categories of robbery experienced declines in 2002. Rates of firearm robbery were down 10% from the previous year and 64% from a decade ago (Figure 7).

Figure 7

Robbery incidents by type, Canada, 1992-2002

Rate per 100,000 population



^r revised

Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, CCJS.

Eight provinces reported declines in the rate of robberies in 2002. The largest, a 21% drop, occurred in Prince Edward Island, followed by an 11% decline in Nova Scotia. Only New Brunswick and Newfoundland and Labrador reported increases in 2002, up 34% and 24% respectively.

Among the CMAs, robbery rates ranged from 223 incidents per 100,000 population in Winnipeg to 19 in Saguenay. Previous years have shown similarly wide ranging rates among CMAs. Robbery rates declined in 18 CMAs in 2002. Among them were Sherbrooke (-35%), Saguenay (-21%), Halifax (-17%).

Robbery is the only violent crime for which youth make up a substantial proportion (32%) of all persons charged (Table 7). Over the past ten years the rate of youths charged with robbery has increased by 4%, compared to a 25% decrease in the rate of adults charged.

Criminal harassment up

The *Criminal Code* defines criminal harassment as repeatedly following or communicating with someone, watching that person's residence or place of business, or engaging in threatening conduct directed at that person or a member of their family. Data on criminal harassment are available only from those police services providing data to the Incident Based (UCR2) Survey. In order to permit trend analysis, a separate UCR2 Trend Database has been created for a subset of all respondents who have been reporting data to this survey since 1997.¹¹

The rate of criminal harassment incidents has been generally increasing over the past five years, including a 6% increase in 2002. At 43 incidents per 100,000 population, the 2002 rate of criminal harassment was 44% higher than the rate in 1997.

Property Crime

Property crime lowest since 1973

Property crimes involve unlawful acts with the intent of acquiring property but without the use or threat of violence. Theft, breaking and entering, fraud and possession of stolen goods are among the most frequently reported property crimes (Figure 8). In 2002, there were more than 1.2 million incidents of property crime reported by police. The rate of property crimes has been decreasing over the past decade, and remained relatively stable (-0.8%) in 2002. The property crime rate in 2002 was the lowest it has been since 1973.

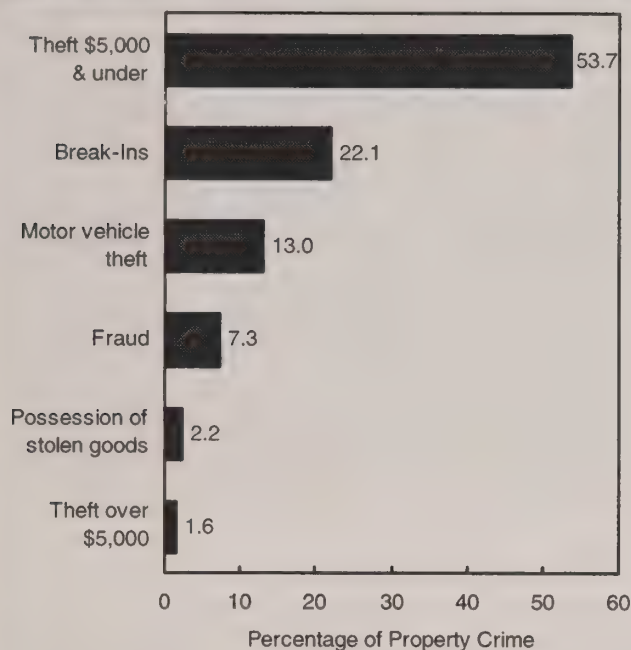
Provincially, property crime rates tend to increase from east to west, ranging from 2,422 incidents per 100,000 population in Newfoundland and Labrador to 6,488 in British Columbia (Figure 9). British Columbia has recorded the highest rate for over 25 years, while Newfoundland has reported the lowest since 1988.

¹¹ In 2002, this database represented 46% of the national volume of crime and was comprised of 183 police services, including Toronto, Montréal, Calgary, Edmonton and Vancouver.

¹² These figures represent all offences of criminal harassment, regardless of whether or not it was the most serious offence committed in an incident with multiple offences.

Figure 8

Property crime, by category, Canada, 2002

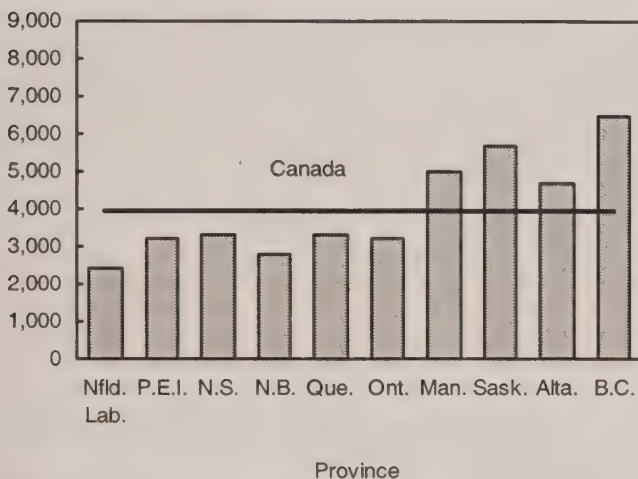


Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, CCJS.

Figure 9

Property crime, Canada and the provinces, 2002

Rate per 100,000 population



Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, CCJS.

The largest drop in property crime rates in 2002 was recorded in Quebec, down 5% from the previous year. The largest increases were reported in Prince Edward Island (+8%), Newfoundland and Labrador (+6%) and Alberta (+6%).

All of the territories experienced increased rates of property crime in 2002. Only Yukon reported a rate higher than British Columbia, at 7,436 incidents per 100,000 population.

Six of the nine largest CMAs reported decreased property crime rates in 2002. The largest drops occurred in Winnipeg (-7%) and Montreal (-5%). Only Edmonton (+12%) and Ottawa (+5%) experienced increases in their property crime rates, while Toronto's rate remained stable.

Among all 25 CMAs, property crime rates ranged from 2,459 incidents per 100,000 population in Saguenay to 8,185 in Regina. Despite a 14% drop in 2002, Regina has recorded the highest property crime rate of all the CMAs for six consecutive years.

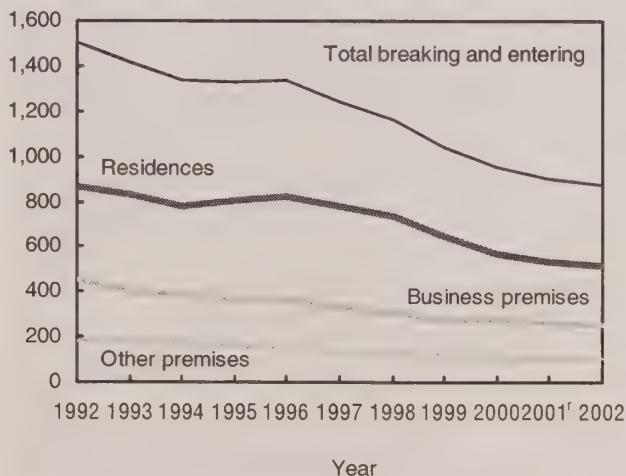
Break-ins continue to decline

Police reported about 275,000 break-ins in 2002, a 3% decline in the rate. The rate of break-ins has been generally declining since 1992 (Figure 10). Break-ins represent the third-largest offence category, accounting for 1 in 10 *Criminal Code* incidents.

Figure 10

Incidents of break-ins, by type, Canada, 1992-2002

Rate per 100,000 population



^r revised

Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, CCJS.

Four provinces reported a decline in the rate of break-ins in 2002, with the largest drop occurring in Manitoba, down 5% from the previous year. The largest increases were reported in Prince Edward Island (+29%), Newfoundland and Labrador (+8%), and Alberta (+5%). New Brunswick recorded the lowest

rate of break-ins (635 incidents per 100,000 population). Saskatchewan again recorded the highest rate of break-ins (1,488) of all the provinces.

The majority of break-ins took place in private residences (59%), followed by businesses (29%) and other locations, including storage facilities and sheds (12%). All three categories experienced declines in 2002. Residential break-ins dropped by 3%, while break-ins at businesses and "other" locations were both down 2%.

More than 1 out of every 3 (37%) persons charged with break-ins are youths aged 12-17. The proportion of persons charged with break-ins who are youths has remained fairly constant since the mid-1980s. In 2002, the rate of youths charged with break-ins was down 6% from the previous year, and 57% from ten years ago.

According to the Insurance Bureau of Canada, whose member companies provide about 90% of all private property and casualty insurance sold in Canada, 22% of all homeowner's claims in 2001 were a result of theft.¹³ The remaining claims resulted from hail and wind damage (40%), water damage (27%), and fire damage (11%).

Vehicle Thefts Down

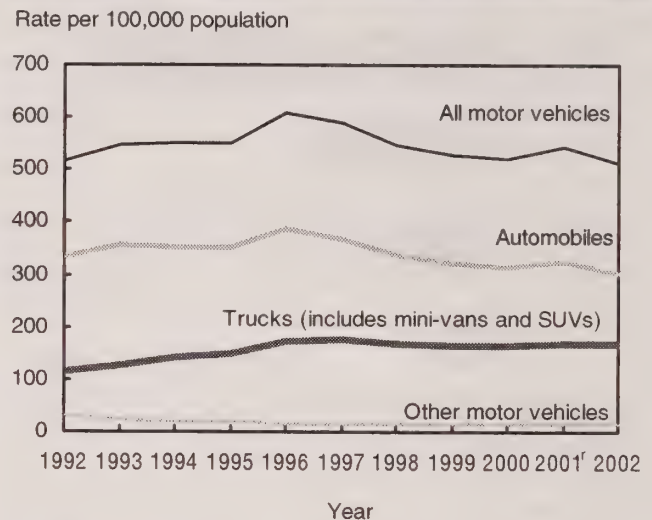
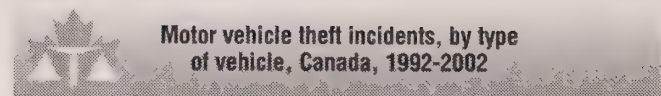
The motor vehicle theft rate dropped for the fifth time in six years in 2002, down 5%. This decline was led by a 13% drop in Saskatchewan, and 11% drops in Quebec and Prince Edward Island. British Columbia was the only province to report a large increase (+7%) in its vehicle theft rate.

Cars were the most commonly stolen type of vehicle in 2002, accounting for 59% of all vehicle thefts (Figure 11). Trucks, including mini vans and sport utility vehicles, currently account for 32% of vehicles stolen. The rate of trucks being stolen has increased 47% over the past decade, compared to a 1% decrease in the rate of cars being stolen over the same time period. This illustrates the growing popularity of sports utility vehicles and trucks on the road and as targets for theft.

Although Regina's vehicle theft rate dropped by 27% in 2002, it was still the highest rate of all CMAs, slightly more than Winnipeg. The Regina Police Service attributes this decline to the implementation of a multi-agency *Auto Theft Strategy*.¹⁴ This is a collaborative effort between Provincial Departments of Corrections and Public Safety, Justice, Community Resources and Employment, and the Regina Police. An even larger decrease in vehicle theft was reported by Thunder Bay, down 53% from 2001. Police in Thunder Bay attribute this decline to increased efforts to identify, arrest and charge the key persons responsible for vehicle theft in Thunder Bay.¹⁵ Only 4 CMAs reported substantial increases in motor vehicle theft rates in 2002: Québec (+5%), Edmonton (+5%), Saint John (+4%) and Vancouver (+3%).

On average, in 2001, there was one motor vehicle theft claim for every 100 cars in Canada, according to the Insurance Bureau of Canada.¹⁶ The average theft claim frequency was much higher in British Columbia than elsewhere in the country. The total value of all vehicle theft claims in 2001 was \$40 per each insured vehicle in Canada. Provincially, this average cost ranged from \$10 in the Atlantic Provinces to over \$80 in Quebec.

Figure 11



^r revised

Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, CCJS.

Vehicle theft is a crime associated with young offenders. In 2002, 40% of persons charged with this crime were between the ages of 12 and 17. The only other offences with similarly high proportions of youth charged were arson (40%) and break-ins (37%).

Thefts account for more than half of all property crimes

There were just under 690,000 incidents of theft (excluding motor vehicle thefts and theft of property during a break-in) in 2002. As in the previous year, thefts accounted for 55% of all property crimes, and 29% of all *Criminal Code* offences. The theft rate in 2002 was virtually unchanged from the previous year.

Thefts from motor vehicles accounted for 39% of all thefts reported to police in 2002. A further 12% of thefts were incidents of shoplifting, 8% were bicycle thefts, and the final 41% were "other" types of thefts. Decreases in thefts from motor vehicles and bicycle thefts were offset by increased rates of shoplifting and "other" types of thefts in 2002.

First increase in fraud incidents in 11 years

The over 91,000 incidents of fraud reported to police in 2002 represented 7% of all property crimes. The 2002 fraud rate was 4% higher than the previous year. This is the first increase following ten years of decline. The increase in 2002 was led by a 19% increase in credit/debit card frauds.

¹³ For further information, see Insurance Bureau of Canada, *Facts of the General Insurance Industry, 2002*.

¹⁴ Regina Police Source, June 2, 2003.

¹⁵ Thunder Bay Police Source, May 28, 2003.

¹⁶ For further information see Insurance Bureau of Canada "How Cars Measure Up, 2001".

Over the past decade the proportion of frauds that are credit/debit card frauds has more than doubled from 13% to 30%. Over the same time period cheque fraud has decreased considerably, from slightly over one-half of all fraud incidents to less than one-quarter in 2002. This change is indicative of the general shift of consumers away from the use of cheques and towards payment by credit and debit cards.

Counting Fraud

The data collected by the UCR Survey counts the number of criminal fraud incidents in Canada. The UCR Survey does not take into account the number of times a single stolen credit or debit card may be used, or the number of cheques a person could pass at a time. If a single credit card is fraudulently used a number of times by the same person, it will be counted as only one incident of fraud. Information regarding multiple occurrences of fraud within one incident is collected only from those respondents reporting to the Incident-Based Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR2) Survey. Data from the UCR2 survey indicate that, on average, the same person will pass 1.9 fraudulent cheques in a single store in the course of one day, or during a single incident. A single credit/debit card will be fraudulently used an average of 2.3 times before being discarded or confiscated by the police. "Other frauds" are perpetrated an average of 1.6 times by the same person over a period of time. When these multiple occurrences are taken into account, the just over 91,000 fraud incidents represent more than 175,000 actual fraudulent uses of debit/credit cards and cheques reported to police. It should be noted that many frauds are not reported to the police.

Other Criminal Code Incidents

Criminal Code incidents that are classified as neither property crimes nor violent crimes fall into the category of "Other *Criminal Code*" offences. In 2002 there were nearly 840,000 such incidents, representing 35% of all *Criminal Code* incidents. Together these crimes remained stable in 2002. The largest-volume offence in this category is mischief, which declined by 1% in 2002 (Figure 12). The next largest-volume offence, bail violations, recorded a 3% increase.

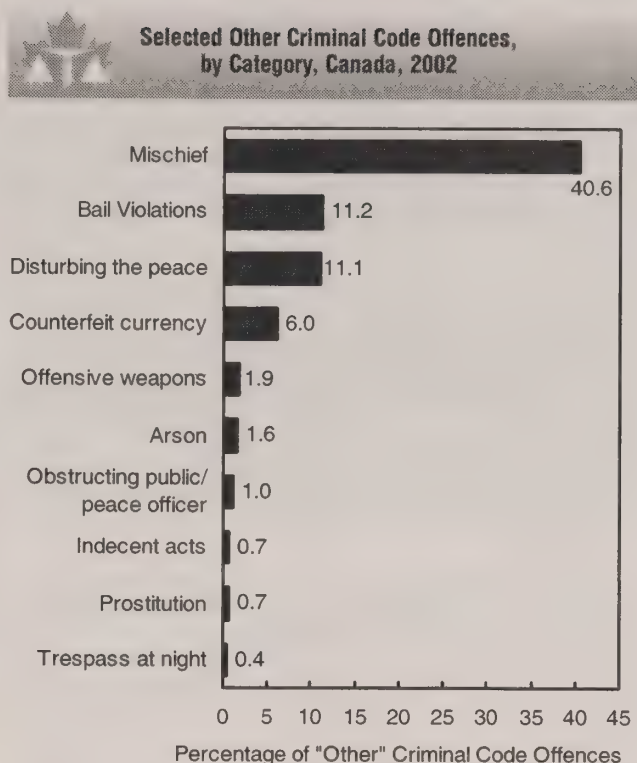
Other *Criminal Code* incidents tend to have high rates of youth offending, particularly for the offences of mischief and arson. In 2002, one-third of all persons charged with mischief and 40% of those charged with arson, were youths aged 12 to 17.

Decrease in offensive weapons crimes

Since 1998, when the new *Firearms Act* began its gradual introduction, four new categories of criminal offences related to offensive weapons were created in the UCR survey: illegal use of a firearm or replica; illegal possession of a weapon; weapon importation, exportation and trafficking; and, a category for all "other" weapons-related offences (including offences involving non-secure storage, documentation and administration of firearms). In 2002 police reported 15,800 offensive weapons offences, a rate of 50 incidents per 100,000 population. This is a decrease of 1% from the previous year and follows a 7% increase in the rate of offensive weapons offences in 2001.

Illegal possession of a weapon accounted for 57% of all weapons-related offences in 2002. A further 13% of offences fell into the illegal firearms usage category, and 29% into the "other" weapons offences category.

Figure 12



Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, CCJS.

Prostitution incidents up across the country

The rate of prostitution incidents reported by police increased 12% in 2002. As the number of reported incidents is affected by police enforcement policies, this increase is not necessarily a reflection of a rise in the number of prostitution incidents in 2002. After peaking in 1988, there were a number of large declines in prostitution offences reported by police. The 2002 rate of 18 incidents per 100,000 population was 49% lower than the rate 10 years ago, but 53% higher than the rate 25 years ago.

The majority (90%) of prostitution incidents are for communicating for the purposes of engaging in prostitution, both by prostitutes and clients. The remaining incidents are related to bawdy houses and procuring.

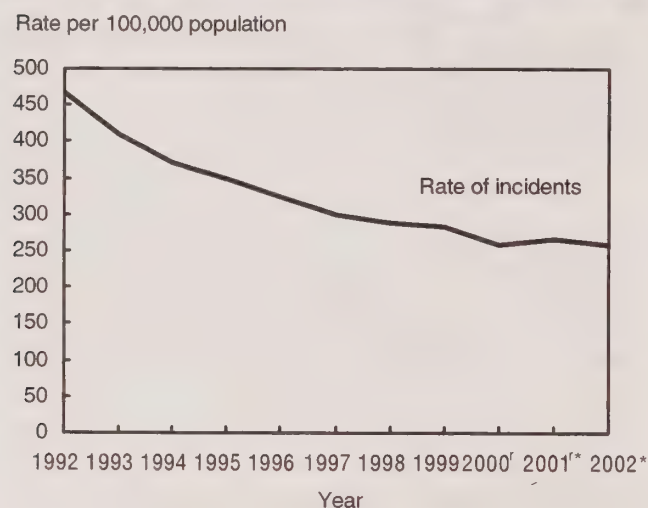
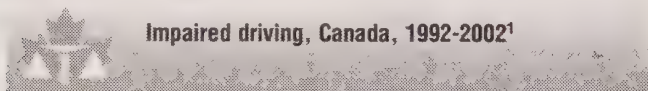
Criminal Code Traffic Incidents

Criminal Code traffic incidents reported by police in 2002 numbered just under 118,000, a small decrease from 2001. Impaired driving offences represented 69% of all *Criminal Code* traffic incidents. Of the remaining offences, 19% were failures to stop and/or remain at the scene of an accident, and the final 12% were incidents of dangerous driving and driving while prohibited.

Impaired driving rate down slightly

Impaired driving offences include impaired operation of a motor vehicle, boat or aircraft causing death or bodily harm; driving with over 80 mg of alcohol per 100 ml of blood; and, failing to provide a breath and/or blood sample when requested by a police officer. Following the first increase in impaired driving offences in nearly 20 years in 2001, police reported a 3% decrease in the rate of this crime in 2002. There were almost 81,000 incidents of impaired driving in 2002.

Figure 13



¹ revised

* In 2001 the RCMP began reporting incidents of impaired driving in which a roadside suspension was issued, rather than a charge laid, to the CCJS. In 2002, all other police services began reporting this way as well.

¹ Revisions have been made to the number of "actual" impaired driving incidents for the RCMP in 2000 and 2001 and estimates have been provided for these two years. These revisions resulted in a 6% reduction in actual incidents at the Canada level for 2000 and 9% for 2001. These changes did not affect the national impaired driving trend. The number of persons "charged" with impaired driving offences did not require revision.

Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, CCJS.

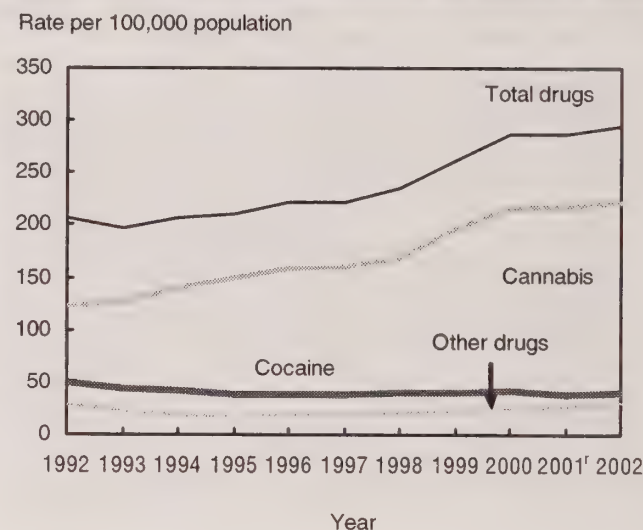
Ninth consecutive increase in drug crimes

Police reported almost 93,000 incidents related to the *Controlled Drugs and Substances Act* (CDSA) in 2002, an increase of 3% over the previous year. Drug offences have been increasing for nearly a decade, and the rate is the highest it has been in twenty years (Figure 14).

A study released in 2001 based on The Ontario Student Drug Use Survey indicated that there has been an increase in drug use among Ontario youths (grades 7 to 13) since 1991.¹⁷ The percentage of students using cannabis in the last twelve months increased from 11.7% in 1991 to 28.6% in 2001. Student cocaine use was up from 1.6% in 1991 to 3.8% in 2001.

Figure 14

Drug incidents, by type of drug, Canada, 1992-2002



¹ revised

Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, CCJS.

Police-reported data show that the proportion of youths charged with drug offences declines with the severity of the type of drug. For instance, 22% of persons charged with possession of cannabis in 2002 were youths aged 12 to 17, compared to only 3% of all persons charged with cocaine possession, and 1% of all persons charged with possession of heroin.

Among the provinces the rate of drug offences reported by police varies widely, ranging from 169 in Newfoundland and Labrador, to 544 in British Columbia. British Columbia has reported the highest rate of drug offences every year since 1982. In 2002, British Columbia reported the largest decrease (-4%) in its drug rate of all the provinces. Three provinces recorded substantial increases in drug crime rates; Saskatchewan (+27%), Nova Scotia (+26%) and Prince Edward Island (+22%). These increases are associated with increases in the rates of cannabis possession.

Nearly all of the major drug categories increased in 2002. Cannabis offences, accounting for three-quarters of all drug offences, were up 2%, and the rate of cocaine offences was up 1%. The rate of "other" types of drug incidents, which include LSD, ecstasy, barbiturates, etc. increased 11% over the previous year. The only drug category that did not contribute to the overall increase in drug offences was heroin. The rate of heroin offences dropped 18% from 2001. This drop did not have a significant effect on the overall drug offence rate as heroin offences represent only 1% of all drug offences.

¹⁷ For further information on the OSDUS survey, see Adlaf, Edward M. and Paglis, Angela (2001) "Drug Use Among Ontario Students 1977-2002, Findings from the OSDUS", Centre for Addiction in Mental Health Research Document Series, no. 10.

The majority (72%) of all cannabis charges are for possession, with 15% related to trafficking, 12% for production, and a further 1% for importation. Trafficking accounts for a much higher proportion of all heroin (40%) and cocaine (49%) incidents.

The recent proposal to de-criminalize the possession of small amounts of cannabis (15 g. or less) has raised public interest in the extent of cannabis crime in Canada, and in particular, variations in rates among the provinces. British Columbia has reported the highest rate of possession (279 incidents per 100,000 population) every year since 1982, and of production (77) in each of the last 25 years. Newfoundland and Labrador reported the lowest possession rate (107) for the first time in 2002, but has reported the lowest production rate (5) since 1979.

Youth Crime

Measuring Youth Crime

Youths aged 12 to 17 who come into contact with the law can be formally charged or dealt with by other means. The decision to proceed by charge depends on a number of factors including the seriousness of the offence, the prior record of the youth and the admissibility of a youth to, and availability of, alternative measures programs (which may include community service, personal service or financial compensation to a victim, apologies, or educational sessions). When dealing with first-time offenders involved in minor incidents, police may choose to deal with a youth informally by giving a warning or discussing the incident with the youth's parents.

The UCR Survey collects information both on youths formally charged by police as well as those dealt with informally. As not all police forces keep track of the number of youths dealt with informally, youth crime is generally measured by the number of youths charged by police. However, it is possible to examine trends in the number of youths dealt with informally for police services who collect this information consistently over time. The number of youths accused but not charged will become even more important in measuring youth crime in the future, as the new *Youth Criminal Justice Act* encourages police to divert youth away from the formal criminal justice system for minor offences.

As such, this analysis will present both the trend for youths charged as well as for those dealt with informally.

Youth crime down

About 99,000 youths were charged with a *Criminal Code* offence in 2002, for a rate of about 4,000 youths charged per 100,000 youths aged 12 to 17 (Table 8 and Figure 15). This is a decrease of 5% from the previous year. The overall decline was consistent for violent crime, property crime and other *Criminal Code* offences. Over the past decade, the rate of youths charged has dropped by 33%.

In 2002, there were just over 75,000 youths accused of committing an offence, but who were not charged by police (figure based on police services that report youths not charged data). In the past ten years, the trend in the rate of youths accused but not charged with *Criminal Code* offences has

Youth Criminal Justice Act

The *Youth Criminal Justice Act* (YCJA) came into force on April 1, 2003 and replaced the *Young Offenders Act*. The Act encourages the use of extrajudicial (non-court) measures for less serious offences. These measures include taking no further action, informal police warnings, referrals to community programs, formal police cautions, Crown cautions and extrajudicial sanctions programs. These measures are to be used in all cases in which they would be adequate to hold the young person accountable. It is presumed that extrajudicial measures are adequate to hold accountable non-violent offenders who have not previously been found guilty in court.

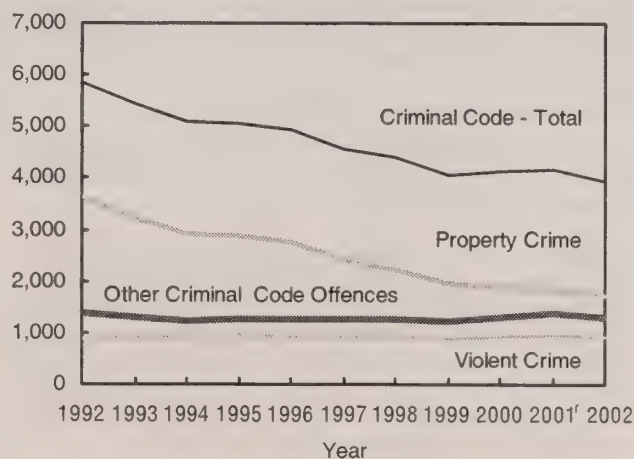
The Act establishes new sentencing principles. These principles include: sentences must be proportionate to the seriousness of the offence and the degree of responsibility of the young person; within the limit of proportionality, the sentence must be the least restrictive alternative and the sentence that is most likely to promote rehabilitation; and the sentence must not be more severe than what an adult would receive for the same offence. In addition, the Act sets out specific restrictions on the use of custody that reserve custody primarily for violent offenders and serious repeat offenders for whom there is no alternative to custody. The Act also creates several new non-custodial sentencing options and provides that custodial sentences include a period of supervision in the community.

remained fairly constant, not experiencing the same decline as the rate of youths charged. This suggests that youth crime is decreasing, but not to the extent indicated by the drop in youths formally charged by police. In addition, there are an unknown number of diversions that are not recorded by police in any year.

Figure 15

Youths charged, by type of offence, Canada, 1992-2002

Rate per 100,000 youths aged 12 - 17



^r revised

Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, CCJS.

Considering only the rate of youths charged with criminal offences, youth crime varies widely across the provinces (Table 9). The lowest rate in 2002 was recorded in Quebec (1,884 youths charged per 100,000 youth population), followed

by Prince Edward Island (2,357) and British Columbia (3,066). Saskatchewan and Manitoba reported the highest rates of youths charged, at 10,579 and 7,492 respectively. Nova Scotia reported the only large increase in youth crime in 2002 (+6%).

Decrease in the rate of youths charged with violent offences

Violent crime has been increasing over the years as a proportion of total youth crime. Ten years ago violent offences accounted for 15% of all youth crime, compared to 24% in 2002. This trend may be somewhat related to the increasing tendency of police not to formally charge youth with less serious property crimes.

The rate of youths charged with violent offences was down 2% in 2002. After increasing steadily throughout the 1980s, the rate of youths charged with violent crimes continued to increase through the 1990s, but at a slower rate. By 2002 the youth violent crime rate was 7% higher than ten years earlier. Six provinces reported declines in youth violent crime rates in 2002, including a 19% drop in Prince Edward Island and a 6% decline in Saskatchewan.

The overall decline in the rate of youths charged with violent offences in 2002 was driven by a drop in the rate of youths charged with level 1 assaults (including pushing, slapping and punching) and level 2 assaults (assault with a weapon or causing bodily harm), down 1% and 2% respectively. Combined, these offences account for 7 out of every 10 youths charged with a violent offence.

The rate of youths accused but not charged with violent offences was also down (-2%) from the previous year. Over the past ten years the rate of youths accused but not charged with violent offences has mirrored the rate of youths charged, increasing generally throughout the decade. This suggests that while police have continued to lay charges for many violent offences, they have also dealt with violent crime through the use of less formal measures.

Youth property crime continues to drop

The rate of youths charged with property crimes dropped for the 11th straight year in 2002, down 5%. This is the lowest it has been in over 25 years.

The rate of youths accused but not charged with property crimes also decreased (-4%) in 2002. There has been a general decline in the rate of youths accused but not charged over the past ten years similar to that exhibited by the rate of youths charged, though not as steep. Therefore, while youth involvement in property crime has been falling, the drop is not as great if the use of informal processes, such as warnings and alternative measures, is taken into account.

The rate of youths charged with property crimes decreased for every property crime category, including an 11% drop in motor vehicle theft and a 6% drop in break-ins. This decrease in youth involvement in motor vehicle theft follows two years of increases.

Methodology

The Uniform Crime Reporting Survey

The Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Survey was developed by Statistics Canada with the co-operation and assistance of the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police. The survey, which became operational in 1962, collects crime and traffic statistics reported by all police agencies in Canada. UCR survey data reflect reported crime that has been substantiated through police investigation.

In this report, the "crime rate" excludes *Criminal Code* traffic violations as these data have proven to be volatile over time as a result of changes in police procedures that allow for some traffic violations to be scored under either a provincial statute or the *Criminal Code* (e.g. failure to stop or remain at an accident). Other federal statutes such as drug offences are also excluded from the calculated crime rate in this report.

Currently, there are two levels of detail collected by the UCR survey:

1. Aggregate UCR Survey

The aggregate UCR survey records the number of incidents reported to the police. It includes the number of reported offences, actual offences, offences cleared by charge or cleared otherwise, persons charged (by sex and by an adult/youth breakdown) and those not charged. It does not include victim characteristics. Unless otherwise mentioned, all analysis in this report is based on aggregate survey counts.

The aggregate UCR survey classifies incidents according to the most serious offence in the incident (generally the offence that carries the longest maximum sentence under the *Criminal Code*). In categorizing incidents, violent offences always take precedence over non-violent offences. As a result, less serious offences are under-represented by the UCR survey.

The aggregate UCR survey scores violent incidents (except robbery) differently from other types of crime. For violent crime, a separate incident is recorded for each victim (i.e. if one person assaults three people, then three incidents are recorded; but if three people assault one person, only one incident is recorded). Robbery, however, is counted as if it were a non-violent crime in order to avoid inflating the number of victims (e.g. for a bank robbery, counting everyone present in the bank would result in an overcounting of robbery incidents). For non-violent crimes, one incident (categorized according to the most serious offence) is counted for every distinct or separate occurrence.

2. Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR2) Survey

The incident-based UCR2 survey captures detailed information on individual criminal incidents reported to police, including characteristics of victims, accused persons and incidents. Police forces switch over from the aggregate to the incident-based survey as their records management systems become capable of providing this level of detail.

In 2002, detailed data were collected from 123 police services in 9 provinces through the UCR2 survey. These data represent 59% of the national volume of reported actual (substantiated) *Criminal Code* crimes. The incidents contained in the 2002 database were distributed as follows: 41% from Ontario, 29% from Québec, 11% from Alberta, 5% from British Columbia, 5% from Manitoba, 5% from Saskatchewan, 2% from Nova Scotia, 1% from New Brunswick, and 1% from Newfoundland & Labrador. Other than Ontario and Quebec, the data are primarily from urban police departments. The reader is cautioned that these data are not geographically representative at the national or provincial level. Continuity with the UCR aggregate survey data is maintained by a conversion of the incident-based data to aggregate counts at year-end.

The UCR2 Trend Database contains historical data, which permits the analysis of trends in the characteristics of the incidents, accused and victims, such as weapon use and victim/accused relationships. This database currently includes 183 police services who have reported to the UCR2 survey constantly since 1997. These respondents accounted for 46% of the national volume of crime in 2002. This list of respondents will remain unchanged until such time as large police services such as the RCMP and OPP have been providing at least 5 years of data to the UCR2 survey, at which point they will become part of this trend database.

Impact of Data Revisions

Impact of Reporting Changes to Ontario Data for Selected Offences

| Offence | % Adjustment in Incident Counts | |
|--|---------------------------------|-----------|
| | Ontario | Canada |
| | % | % |
| Homicide | 0 | 0 |
| Assault -Total | -2 | -1 |
| Sexual Assault -Total | -4 | -1 |
| Robbery | 0 | 0 |
| Total Violent Crime | -3 | -1 |
| Break & Enter | -4 | -1 |
| Motor Vehicle Theft | -2 | 0 |
| Total Property Crime | -4 | -1 |
| Total Criminal Code (excluding traffic) | -4 | -1 |

Table 1

Federal Statute Incidents Reported to Police, by Most Serious Offence, Canada, 1998-2002¹

| | 1998 | | 1999 | | 2000 | | 2001 ² | | 2002 | | % change in rate* 2001-2002 | % change in rate* 1992-2002 |
|--|-------------------|--------------|-------------------|--------------|-------------------|--------------|-------------------|--------------|-------------------|--------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| | Number | Rate | Number | Rate | Number | Rate | Number | Rate | Number | Rate | | |
| Population | 30,248,412 | | 30,509,323 | | 30,790,834 | | 31,110,565 | | 31,413,990 | | | |
| Homicide ³ | 558 | 2 | 538 | 2 | 546 | 2 | 553 | 2 | 582 | 2 | 4.2 | -28.2 |
| Attempted murder | 745 | 2 | 687 | 2 | 767 | 2 | 725 | 2 | 682 | 2 | -6.8 | -41.6 |
| Assaults - Total (levels 1, 2, 3) | 223,926 | 740 | 221,348 | 726 | 233,719 | 759 | 236,957 | 762 | 235,270 | 749 | -1.7 | -2.0 |
| Level 1 | 183,999 | 608 | 181,330 | 594 | 190,467 | 619 | 191,147 | 614 | 189,158 | 602 | -2.0 | -2.8 |
| Level 2-Weapon | 37,302 | 123 | 37,501 | 123 | 40,686 | 132 | 43,094 | 139 | 43,427 | 138 | -0.2 | 4.7 |
| Level 3-Aggravated | 2,625 | 9 | 2,517 | 8 | 2,566 | 8 | 2,716 | 9 | 2,685 | 9 | -2.1 | -31.7 |
| Other assaults | 12,147 | 40 | 12,126 | 40 | 12,164 | 40 | 12,260 | 39 | 12,357 | 39 | -0.2 | -30.9 |
| Sexual assaults - Total | 25,553 | 84 | 23,859 | 78 | 24,001 | 78 | 24,044 | 77 | 24,350 | 78 | 0.3 | -36.0 |
| Level 1 | 24,805 | 82 | 23,185 | 76 | 23,428 | 76 | 23,563 | 76 | 23,813 | 76 | 0.1 | -34.9 |
| Level 2-Weapon | 529 | 2 | 461 | 2 | 391 | 1 | 320 | 1 | 381 | 1 | 17.9 | -63.2 |
| Level 3-Aggravated | 219 | 1 | 213 | 1 | 182 | 1 | 161 | 1 | 156 | 0 | -4.0 | -64.6 |
| Other sexual offences | 3,445 | 11 | 3,300 | 11 | 3,114 | 10 | 2,689 | 9 | 2,744 | 9 | 1.1 | -38.6 |
| Abduction | 829 | 3 | 729 | 2 | 750 | 2 | 674 | 2 | 609 | 2 | -10.5 | -54.9 |
| Robbery - Total | 28,963 | 96 | 28,740 | 94 | 27,037 | 88 | 27,264 | 88 | 26,700 | 85 | -3.1 | -27.4 |
| Firearms | 5,324 | 18 | 5,122 | 17 | 4,323 | 14 | 3,818 | 12 | 3,472 | 11 | -9.9 | -64.1 |
| Other Weapons | 10,326 | 34 | 10,500 | 34 | 9,901 | 32 | 10,280 | 33 | 10,095 | 32 | -2.7 | -15.5 |
| No Weapons | 13,313 | 44 | 13,118 | 43 | 12,813 | 42 | 13,166 | 42 | 13,133 | 42 | -1.4 | -13.2 |
| Violent crime - Total | 296,166 | 979 | 291,327 | 955 | 302,098 | 981 | 305,186 | 981 | 303,294 | 965 | -1.6 | -10.9 |
| Break & enter - Total | 350,774 | 1,160 | 318,054 | 1,042 | 293,357 | 953 | 279,461 | 898 | 274,894 | 875 | -2.6 | -41.9 |
| Business | 92,590 | 306 | 83,971 | 275 | 82,074 | 267 | 80,264 | 258 | 79,724 | 254 | -1.6 | -44.0 |
| Residential | 221,366 | 732 | 197,022 | 646 | 175,804 | 571 | 166,500 | 535 | 162,851 | 518 | -3.1 | -40.1 |
| Other | 36,818 | 122 | 37,061 | 121 | 35,479 | 115 | 32,697 | 105 | 32,319 | 103 | -2.1 | -45.1 |
| Motor vehicle theft | 165,920 | 549 | 161,388 | 529 | 160,315 | 521 | 168,595 | 542 | 161,506 | 514 | -5.1 | -0.6 |
| Theft over \$5,000 ⁴ | 23,600 | 78 | 22,493 | 74 | 21,354 | 69 | 20,845 | 67 | 19,885 | 63 | -5.5 | -85.0 |
| Theft \$5,000 and under ⁴ | 713,632 | 2,359 | 678,367 | 2,223 | 663,040 | 2,153 | 659,589 | 2,120 | 668,589 | 2,128 | 0.4 | -26.7 |
| Possession of stolen goods | 29,156 | 96 | 29,308 | 96 | 28,530 | 93 | 26,960 | 87 | 27,836 | 89 | 2.3 | -20.3 |
| Fraud | 94,819 | 313 | 90,371 | 296 | 85,791 | 279 | 86,486 | 278 | 91,235 | 290 | 4.5 | -34.5 |
| Property crime - Total | 1,377,901 | 4,555 | 1,299,981 | 4,261 | 1,252,387 | 4,067 | 1,241,936 | 3,992 | 1,243,945 | 3,960 | -0.8 | -32.9 |
| Mischief | 326,918 | 1,081 | 312,266 | 1,024 | 326,374 | 1,060 | 333,136 | 1,071 | 332,723 | 1,059 | -1.1 | -33.7 |
| Counterfeiting currency | 39,830 | 132 | 36,265 | 119 | 35,937 | 117 | 38,674 | 124 | 50,498 | 161 | 29.3 | 500.2 |
| Bail violations | 73,034 | 241 | 72,192 | 237 | 78,105 | 254 | 90,545 | 291 | 93,873 | 299 | 2.7 | 29.5 |
| Disturbing the peace | 65,513 | 217 | 69,570 | 228 | 80,085 | 260 | 89,971 | 289 | 92,592 | 295 | 1.9 | 48.5 |
| Offensive weapons | 16,766 | 55 | 16,007 | 52 | 15,324 | 50 | 15,876 | 51 | 15,834 | 50 | -1.2 | -19.2 |
| Prostitution | 5,969 | 20 | 5,255 | 17 | 5,051 | 16 | 5,087 | 16 | 5,773 | 18 | 12.4 | -48.6 |
| Arson | 12,947 | 43 | 12,756 | 42 | 13,733 | 45 | 14,484 | 47 | 13,192 | 42 | -9.8 | -9.4 |
| Other | 246,112 | 814 | 241,212 | 791 | 243,674 | 791 | 239,916 | 771 | 232,523 | 740 | -4.0 | -13.1 |
| Other Criminal Code - Total | 787,089 | 2,602 | 765,523 | 2,509 | 798,283 | 2,593 | 827,689 | 2,660 | 837,008 | 2,664 | 0.1 | -12.7 |
| CRIMINAL CODE WITHOUT TRAFFIC - TOTAL | 2,461,156 | 8,136 | 2,356,831 | 7,725 | 2,352,768 | 7,641 | 2,374,811 | 7,633 | 2,384,247 | 7,590 | -0.6 | -24.4 |
| Impaired driving ^{5,6} | 87,660 | 290 | 85,997 | 282 | 79,225 | 257 | 82,718 | 266 | 80,789 | 257 | -3.3 | -44.9 |
| Fail to stop/remain ⁷ | 39,087 | 129 | 17,972 | 59 | 19,522 | 63 | 22,538 | 72 | 21,974 | 70 | -3.4 | -70.4 |
| Other - Criminal Code Traffic | 14,406 | 48 | 13,681 | 45 | 13,698 | 44 | 14,978 | 48 | 14,870 | 47 | -1.7 | -33.6 |
| Criminal Code Traffic - Total | 141,153 | 467 | 117,650 | 386 | 112,445 | 365 | 120,234 | 386 | 117,633 | 374 | -3.1 | -51.6 |
| CRIMINAL CODE - TOTAL | 2,602,309 | 8,603 | 2,474,481 | 8,111 | 2,465,213 | 8,006 | 2,495,045 | 8,020 | 2,501,880 | 7,964 | -0.7 | -26.3 |
| DRUGS | 70,922 | 234 | 80,142 | 263 | 88,091 | 286 | 89,395 | 287 | 92,590 | 295 | 2.6 | 42.0 |
| Cannabis | 50,917 | 168 | 60,011 | 197 | 66,274 | 215 | 67,921 | 218 | 69,989 | 223 | 2.0 | 80.7 |
| Cocaine | 12,183 | 40 | 11,963 | 39 | 12,829 | 42 | 12,145 | 39 | 12,431 | 40 | 1.4 | -20.6 |
| Heroin | 1,323 | 4 | 1,323 | 4 | 1,226 | 4 | 951 | 3 | 787 | 3 | -18.0 | -50.9 |
| Other drugs | 6,499 | 21 | 6,845 | 22 | 7,762 | 25 | 8,378 | 27 | 9,383 | 30 | 10.9 | 2.1 |
| OTHER FEDERAL STATUTES | 35,816 | 118 | 38,942 | 128 | 34,587 | 112 | 38,013 | 122 | 40,081 | 128 | 4.4 | -19.0 |
| TOTAL FEDERAL STATUTES | 2,709,047 | 8,956 | 2,593,565 | 8,501 | 2,587,891 | 8,405 | 2,622,453 | 8,429 | 2,634,551 | 8,387 | -0.5 | -25.0 |

* Percent change based on unrounded rates.

¹ revised

¹ Rates are calculated on the basis of 100,000 population. The population estimates come from the Annual Demographic Statistics, 2002 report, produced by Statistics Canada, Demography Division. Populations as of July 1st: final postcensal estimates for 1998 and 1999, updated postcensal estimates for 2000 and 2001; preliminary postcensal estimates for 2002.

² Data for 2001 have been revised for Ontario and Canada due to reporting changes for the OPP and most of the 41 police services reporting to the Ontario OMPPAC system. For further information on the impact of this change, refer to the text box entitled 'Reporting Changes to Ontario Data'.

³ Homicide investigations undertaken by the Missing Women's Task Force in Port Coquitlam, B.C. resulted in 15 homicides being reported by police in 2002. Homicide counts reflect the year in which police file the report.

⁴ Prior to 1995, theft offences were categorized as Theft \$1,000 and Under and Theft Over \$1,000. In 1995 the dollar value was increased.

⁵ Includes impaired operation of a vehicle causing death, causing bodily harm, alcohol rate over 80mg, failure/refusal to provide a breath/blood sample.

⁶ Revisions have been made to the number of "actual" impaired driving incidents for the RCMP in 2000 and 2001 and estimates have been provided for these two years. These revisions resulted in a 6% reduction in actual incidents at the Canada level for 2000 and 9% for 2001. These changes did not affect the national impaired driving trend. The number of persons "charged" with impaired driving offences did not require revision.

⁷ Beginning in 1999, "fail to stop or remain" incidents for Toronto are now included under "provincial statutes" instead of the Criminal Code.

Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, CCJS.

Table 2



Rates of *Criminal Code* Incidents, Canada, 1962 - 2002¹

| | Total <i>Criminal Code</i> ² | | Violent crime | | Property crime | | Other <i>Criminal Code</i> | |
|-------------------|---|-----------|---------------|-----------|----------------|-----------|----------------------------|-----------|
| | Rate | % Change* | Rate | % Change* | Rate | % Change* | Rate | % Change* |
| | | % | | % | | % | | % |
| 1962 | 2,771 | ... | 221 | ... | 1,891 | ... | 659 | ... |
| 1963 | 3,022 | 9.0 | 249 | 13.0 | 2,047 | 8.2 | 726 | 10.1 |
| 1964 | 3,245 | 7.4 | 284 | 13.8 | 2,146 | 4.9 | 815 | 12.3 |
| 1965 | 3,199 | -1.4 | 299 | 5.4 | 2,091 | -2.6 | 809 | -0.7 |
| 1966 | 3,511 | 9.8 | 347 | 15.9 | 2,258 | 8.0 | 907 | 12.0 |
| 1967 | 3,850 | 9.6 | 381 | 9.9 | 2,484 | 10.0 | 985 | 8.7 |
| 1968 | 4,336 | 12.6 | 423 | 11.0 | 2,826 | 13.8 | 1,087 | 10.3 |
| 1969 | 4,737 | 9.3 | 453 | 7.1 | 3,120 | 10.4 | 1,164 | 7.1 |
| 1970 | 5,212 | 10.0 | 481 | 6.2 | 3,515 | 12.6 | 1,217 | 4.6 |
| 1971 | 5,311 | 1.9 | 492 | 2.4 | 3,649 | 3.8 | 1,170 | -3.9 |
| 1972 | 5,355 | 0.8 | 497 | 1.0 | 3,634 | -0.4 | 1,224 | 4.6 |
| 1973 | 5,773 | 7.8 | 524 | 5.3 | 3,704 | 1.9 | 1,546 | 26.3 |
| 1974 | 6,387 | 10.6 | 553 | 5.6 | 4,151 | 12.1 | 1,684 | 8.9 |
| 1975 | 6,852 | 7.3 | 585 | 5.9 | 4,498 | 8.4 | 1,769 | 5.1 |
| 1976 | 6,984 | 1.9 | 584 | -0.2 | 4,533 | 0.8 | 1,867 | 5.6 |
| 1977 | 6,971 | -0.2 | 572 | -2.0 | 4,466 | -1.5 | 1,933 | 3.5 |
| 1978 | 7,154 | 2.6 | 580 | 1.4 | 4,579 | 2.5 | 1,995 | 3.2 |
| 1979 | 7,666 | 7.2 | 610 | 5.1 | 4,903 | 7.1 | 2,153 | 7.9 |
| 1980 | 8,343 | 8.8 | 636 | 4.3 | 5,444 | 11.0 | 2,263 | 5.1 |
| 1981 | 8,736 | 4.7 | 654 | 2.8 | 5,759 | 5.8 | 2,322 | 2.6 |
| 1982 | 8,773 | 0.4 | 671 | 2.7 | 5,840 | 1.4 | 2,262 | -2.6 |
| 1983 | 8,470 | -3.5 | 679 | 1.2 | 5,608 | -4.0 | 2,182 | -3.5 |
| 1984 | 8,387 | -1.0 | 701 | 3.1 | 5,501 | -1.9 | 2,185 | 0.1 |
| 1985 | 8,413 | 0.3 | 735 | 4.8 | 5,451 | -0.9 | 2,227 | 1.9 |
| 1986 | 8,727 | 3.7 | 785 | 6.9 | 5,550 | 1.8 | 2,392 | 7.4 |
| 1987 | 8,956 | 2.6 | 829 | 5.6 | 5,552 | 0.0 | 2,575 | 7.6 |
| 1988 | 8,919 | -0.4 | 868 | 4.6 | 5,438 | -2.1 | 2,612 | 1.5 |
| 1989 | 8,891 | -0.3 | 911 | 5.0 | 5,289 | -2.8 | 2,691 | 3.0 |
| 1990 | 9,484 | 6.7 | 973 | 6.8 | 5,611 | 6.1 | 2,900 | 7.8 |
| 1991 | 10,342 | 9.0 | 1,059 | 8.9 | 6,160 | 9.8 | 3,122 | 7.7 |
| 1992 | 10,036 | -3.0 | 1,084 | 2.3 | 5,902 | -4.2 | 3,051 | -2.3 |
| 1993 | 9,531 | -5.0 | 1,081 | -0.3 | 5,571 | -5.6 | 2,879 | -5.6 |
| 1994 | 9,114 | -4.4 | 1,046 | -3.2 | 5,250 | -5.8 | 2,817 | -2.2 |
| 1995 | 8,993 | -1.3 | 1,007 | -3.7 | 5,283 | 0.6 | 2,702 | -4.1 |
| 1996 | 8,914 | -0.9 | 1,000 | -0.7 | 5,264 | -0.4 | 2,650 | -1.9 |
| 1997 | 8,453 | -5.2 | 990 | -1.0 | 4,867 | -7.5 | 2,596 | -2.1 |
| 1998 | 8,137 | -3.7 | 979 | -1.1 | 4,555 | -6.4 | 2,602 | 0.2 |
| 1999 | 7,725 | -5.1 | 955 | -2.5 | 4,261 | -6.5 | 2,509 | -3.6 |
| 2000 | 7,641 | -1.1 | 981 | 2.7 | 4,067 | -4.5 | 2,593 | 3.3 |
| 2001 ³ | 7,633 | -0.1 | 981 | -0.0 | 3,992 | -1.9 | 2,660 | 2.6 |
| 2002 | 7,590 | -0.6 | 965 | -1.6 | 3,960 | -0.8 | 2,664 | 0.1 |

* In comparison to the previous year's rate. Percent change based on unrounded rates.

... not applicable

¹ revised

² Rates are calculated on the basis of 100,000 population. The population estimates come from the Annual Demographic Statistics, 2002 report, produced by Statistics Canada, Demography Division. Populations as of July 1st: intercensal estimates for 1962 to 1970, without adjustment for net census undercoverage. Populations as of July 1st: revised intercensal estimates for 1971 to 1990, final intercensal estimates for 1991 to 1995, final postcensal estimates for 1996 to 1999, updated postcensal estimates for 2000 and 2001, and preliminary postcensal estimates for 2002.

³ Excluding traffic offences.

⁴ Data for 2001 have been revised for Ontario and Canada due to reporting changes for the OPP and most of the 41 police services reporting to the Ontario OMPPAC system. For further information on the impact of this change, refer to the text box entitled 'Reporting Changes to Ontario Data'.

Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, CCJS.

Table 3

Selected Criminal Code Incidents, Canada and the Provinces/Territories, 2002¹

| | Nfld. Lab. | P.E.I. | N.S. | N.B. | Que. | Ont. | Man. | Sask. | Alta. | B.C. ² | Yukon | N.W.T. | Nvt. | Canada ² |
|--|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|------------------|-------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|-------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------------|
| Population, 2002 | 531,595 | 139,913 | 944,765 | 756,652 | 7,455,208 | 12,068,301 | 1,150,848 | 1,011,808 | 3,113,586 | 4,141,272 | 29,924 | 41,403 | 28,715 | 31,413,990 |
| Homicide number | 2 | 1 | 9 | 9 | 118 | 178 | 36 | 27 | 70 | 126 | 0 | 4 | 2 | 582 |
| rate | 0.4 | 0.7 | 1.0 | 1.2 | 1.6 | 1.5 | 3.1 | 2.7 | 2.2 | 3.0 | 0.0 | 9.7 | 7.0 | 1.9 |
| % change in rate* | 100.8 | -50.4 | -0.2 | 12.4 | -16.1 | 3.2 | 5.7 | 0.5 | -1.7 | 48.6 | -100.0 | -0.4 | -34.7 | 4.2 |
| Sexual Assault (1,2,3) number | 552 | 147 | 892 | 744 | 4,190 | 8,282 | 1,488 | 1,491 | 2,591 | 3,421 | 97 | 179 | 276 | 24,350 |
| rate | 104 | 105 | 94 | 98 | 56 | 69 | 129 | 147 | 83 | 83 | 324 | 432 | 961 | 78 |
| % change in rate* | -9.1 | 31.5 | 5.9 | -12.2 | 16.4 | -3.6 | 7.7 | 5.0 | -4.2 | -7.9 | 37.8 | 23.8 | 18.5 | 0.3 |
| Assault (1,2,3) number | 3,966 | 987 | 8,527 | 5,914 | 37,879 | 77,187 | 14,979 | 14,832 | 26,388 | 39,910 | 963 | 2,070 | 1,668 | 235,270 |
| rate | 746 | 705 | 903 | 782 | 508 | 640 | 1,302 | 1,466 | 848 | 964 | 3,218 | 5,000 | 5,809 | 749 |
| % change in rate* | 1.5 | 13.2 | 8.2 | 0.3 | 1.4 | -6.1 | 1.4 | 0.4 | -2.1 | -1.0 | 0.8 | 19.5 | 5.6 | -1.7 |
| Robbery number | 83 | 19 | 557 | 231 | 6,887 | 8,908 | 1,635 | 1,068 | 2,637 | 4,616 | 29 | 21 | 9 | 26,700 |
| rate | 16 | 14 | 59 | 31 | 92 | 74 | 142 | 106 | 85 | 111 | 97 | 51 | 31 | 85 |
| % change in rate* | 24.4 | -21.4 | -11.3 | 34.2 | -3.5 | -2.3 | -10.1 | -1.2 | -4.9 | -1.2 | 8.3 | 23.0 | -26.6 | -3.1 |
| Violent crime - Total number | 4,751 | 1,210 | 10,380 | 7,373 | 53,625 | 99,990 | 18,925 | 18,331 | 33,539 | 49,641 | 1,137 | 2,355 | 2,037 | 303,294 |
| rate | 894 | 865 | 1,099 | 974 | 719 | 829 | 1,644 | 1,812 | 1,077 | 1,199 | 3,800 | 5,688 | 7,094 | 965 |
| % change in rate* | -0.1 | 14.6 | 5.9 | -1.7 | 1.5 | -5.3 | 1.5 | 0.5 | -2.1 | -1.4 | 2.3 | 17.2 | 6.3 | -1.6 |
| Breaking & Entering number | 3,460 | 966 | 6,581 | 4,805 | 70,370 | 81,181 | 12,616 | 15,055 | 27,214 | 50,376 | 534 | 907 | 829 | 274,894 |
| rate | 651 | 690 | 697 | 635 | 944 | 673 | 1,096 | 1,488 | 874 | 1,216 | 1,785 | 2,191 | 2,887 | 875 |
| % change in rate* | 8.4 | 29.2 | 0.7 | 0.4 | -5.3 | -2.8 | -5.5 | 0.0 | 4.6 | -3.9 | -12.0 | 27.6 | 16.0 | -2.6 |
| Motor Vehicle Theft number | 599 | 244 | 2,639 | 1,576 | 36,904 | 45,835 | 12,121 | 6,904 | 17,948 | 35,980 | 220 | 336 | 200 | 161,506 |
| rate | 113 | 174 | 279 | 208 | 495 | 380 | 1,053 | 682 | 576 | 869 | 735 | 812 | 697 | 514 |
| % change in rate* | -5.4 | -11.3 | -3.6 | -9.1 | -10.9 | -8.4 | -8.3 | -13.1 | 1.0 | 7.2 | -7.2 | 16.6 | -19.4 | -5.1 |
| Other Theft number | 7,567 | 2,791 | 19,497 | 12,100 | 119,983 | 219,131 | 29,079 | 29,428 | 82,710 | 163,231 | 1,269 | 1,074 | 614 | 688,474 |
| rate | 1,423 | 1,995 | 2,064 | 1,599 | 1,609 | 1,816 | 2,527 | 2,908 | 2,656 | 3,942 | 4,241 | 2,594 | 2,138 | 2,192 |
| % change in rate* | 10.8 | 4.3 | -0.9 | 2.7 | -3.4 | -0.4 | 0.9 | -2.0 | 7.0 | 0.1 | 14.9 | 13.2 | 18.6 | 0.2 |
| Property crime - Total number | 12,875 | 4,483 | 31,385 | 21,280 | 248,896 | 389,947 | 57,277 | 57,447 | 145,175 | 268,699 | 2,225 | 2,503 | 1,753 | 1,243,945 |
| rate | 2,422 | 3,204 | 3,322 | 2,812 | 3,339 | 3,231 | 4,977 | 5,678 | 4,663 | 6,488 | 7,436 | 6,045 | 6,105 | 3,960 |
| % change in rate* | 5.7 | 8.2 | -2.7 | -0.1 | -4.5 | -1.1 | -3.2 | -3.2 | 5.7 | 0.6 | 3.8 | 16.7 | 10.1 | -0.8 |
| Offensive weapons number | 214 | 38 | 623 | 397 | 1,204 | 4,925 | 1,112 | 899 | 2,113 | 4,121 | 60 | 85 | 43 | 15,834 |
| rate | 40 | 27 | 66 | 52 | 16 | 41 | 97 | 89 | 68 | 100 | 201 | 205 | 150 | 50 |
| % change in rate* | 13.7 | -19.7 | 0.1 | 3.0 | -0.7 | -11.7 | -2.9 | 14.8 | 9.7 | 4.8 | 8.1 | -1.6 | -38.1 | -1.2 |
| Mischief number | 5,880 | 1,827 | 11,824 | 7,510 | 50,070 | 96,243 | 26,335 | 21,061 | 44,019 | 60,621 | 1,688 | 3,802 | 1,843 | 332,723 |
| rate | 1,106 | 1,306 | 1,252 | 993 | 672 | 797 | 2,288 | 2,082 | 1,414 | 1,464 | 5,641 | 9,183 | 6,418 | 1,059 |
| % change in rate* | 8.0 | 12.3 | 4.0 | 3.4 | -4.0 | -3.9 | 1.6 | 2.5 | -1.1 | -0.3 | 22.4 | 16.0 | 5.8 | -1.1 |
| Other Criminal Code - Total number | 13,377 | 4,980 | 30,125 | 21,348 | 122,211 | 242,993 | 53,733 | 59,484 | 111,159 | 160,007 | 4,633 | 8,482 | 4,476 | 837,008 |
| rate | 2,516 | 3,559 | 3,189 | 2,821 | 1,639 | 2,013 | 4,669 | 5,879 | 3,570 | 3,864 | 15,483 | 20,486 | 15,588 | 2,664 |
| % change in rate* | 1.8 | 13.9 | 1.8 | 6.6 | 0.5 | -2.9 | 1.1 | 0.8 | -0.1 | 2.2 | 12.6 | 1.1 | 18.3 | 0.1 |
| CRIMINAL CODE - TOTAL - without traffic offences number | 31,003 | 10,673 | 71,890 | 50,001 | 424,732 | 732,930 | 129,935 | 135,262 | 289,873 | 478,347 | 7,995 | 13,340 | 8,266 | 2,384,247 |
| rate | 5,832 | 7,628 | 7,609 | 6,608 | 5,697 | 6,073 | 11,290 | 13,368 | 9,310 | 11,551 | 26,718 | 32,220 | 28,786 | 7,590 |
| % change in rate* | 3.1 | 11.5 | 0.3 | 2.4 | -2.4 | -2.3 | -0.8 | -1.0 | 2.5 | 0.9 | 8.5 | 6.4 | 13.3 | -0.6 |

* In comparison to the previous year rate. Percent change based on unrounded rates.

¹ Rates are calculated on the basis of 100,000 population. The population estimates come from the Annual Demographic Statistics, 2002 report, produced by Statistics Canada, Demography Division. Populations as of July 1st: preliminary postcensal estimates for 2002.

² Homicide investigations undertaken by the Missing Women's Task Force in Port Coquitlam, B.C. resulted in 15 homicides being reported by police in 2002. Homicide counts reflect the year in which police file the report.

Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, CCJS.

Table 4

Selected *Criminal Code* Incidents for Census Metropolitan Areas, 2002^{1,2}

| | Toronto | Montréal | Vancouver ⁴ | Calgary | Edmonton | Ottawa ⁵ | Québec | Winnipeg | Hamilton |
|------------------------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------------|----------------|----------------|---------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| Population³ | 4,987,556 | 3,524,313 | 2,118,504 | 988,873 | 968,950 | 862,835 | 679,889 | 674,188 | 659,539 |
| Homicide | | | | | | | | | |
| number | 90 | 66 | 69 | 15 | 27 | 8 | 3 | 23 | 13 |
| rate | 1.8 | 1.9 | 3.3 | 1.5 | 2.8 | 0.9 | 0.4 | 3.4 | 2.0 |
| % change in rate * | 12.5 | -16.2 | 57.7 | -2.2 | 6.6 | 161.9 | -39.6 | 20.9 | -0.8 |
| Sexual assault (1,2,3) | | | | | | | | | |
| number | 2,839 | 1,823 | 1,275 | 552 | 740 | 329 | 366 | 701 | 517 |
| rate | 57 | 52 | 60 | 56 | 76 | 38 | 54 | 104 | 78 |
| % change in rate * | -1.5 | 13.1 | -3.7 | -14.2 | -6.4 | 18.4 | 25.3 | 12.0 | 5.3 |
| Assault (1,2,3) | | | | | | | | | |
| number | 30,574 | 20,625 | 16,333 | 6,004 | 6,304 | 4,537 | 2,513 | 6,390 | 5,163 |
| rate | 613 | 585 | 771 | 607 | 651 | 526 | 370 | 948 | 783 |
| % change in rate * | -8.3 | -3.0 | -2.6 | -7.6 | -4.6 | -9.0 | -2.0 | -1.0 | -9.6 |
| Robbery | | | | | | | | | |
| number | 5,248 | 5,478 | 3,470 | 981 | 1,306 | 786 | 417 | 1,506 | 663 |
| rate | 105 | 155 | 164 | 99 | 135 | 91 | 61 | 223 | 101 |
| % change in rate * | -5.6 | -2.3 | -2.8 | -8.9 | -7.9 | -12.6 | -15.6 | -10.4 | 18.7 |
| Violent crime - Total | | | | | | | | | |
| number | 40,886 | 30,030 | 21,837 | 8,078 | 8,935 | 6,191 | 3,489 | 8,935 | 6,551 |
| rate | 820 | 852 | 1,031 | 817 | 922 | 718 | 513 | 1,325 | 993 |
| % change in rate * | -6.8 | -2.2 | -2.1 | -6.8 | -5.0 | -5.4 | -2.3 | -0.6 | -5.9 |
| Break & enter | | | | | | | | | |
| number | 27,426 | 34,590 | 27,510 | 7,792 | 9,362 | 5,344 | 5,876 | 7,120 | 5,655 |
| rate | 550 | 981 | 1,299 | 788 | 966 | 619 | 864 | 1,056 | 857 |
| % change in rate * | -1.0 | -6.1 | -7.2 | -4.3 | 10.5 | 0.6 | 6.1 | -9.9 | -7.5 |
| Motor vehicle theft | | | | | | | | | |
| number | 17,363 | 24,088 | 24,932 | 5,334 | 7,648 | 4,103 | 1,313 | 9,471 | 4,919 |
| rate | 348 | 683 | 1,177 | 539 | 789 | 476 | 193 | 1,405 | 746 |
| % change in rate * | -6.2 | -12.2 | 2.6 | -6.9 | 4.5 | -3.1 | 4.7 | -12.6 | -12.1 |
| Other theft | | | | | | | | | |
| number | 82,894 | 67,921 | 88,224 | 24,976 | 28,518 | 17,700 | 11,408 | 19,830 | 12,799 |
| rate | 1,662 | 1,927 | 4,164 | 2,526 | 2,943 | 2,051 | 1,678 | 2,941 | 1,941 |
| % change in rate * | -0.5 | -2.7 | -5.3 | -0.2 | 15.0 | 5.3 | -10.7 | -1.5 | -1.2 |
| Property crime - Total | | | | | | | | | |
| number | 147,088 | 139,490 | 149,725 | 43,196 | 52,338 | 30,593 | 20,254 | 38,247 | 25,240 |
| rate | 2,949 | 3,958 | 7,067 | 4,368 | 5,402 | 3,546 | 2,979 | 5,673 | 3,827 |
| % change in rate * | 0.4 | -4.6 | -3.8 | -0.9 | 11.9 | 5.2 | -4.0 | -6.6 | -3.8 |
| Offensive weapons | | | | | | | | | |
| number | 1,801 | 455 | 2,105 | 403 | 462 | 326 | 57 | 423 | 219 |
| rate | 36 | 13 | 99 | 41 | 48 | 38 | 8 | 63 | 33 |
| % change in rate * | -11.0 | -5.5 | 2.0 | 17.6 | -4.2 | -2.1 | 19.5 | -5.5 | -13.8 |
| Mischief - | | | | | | | | | |
| number | 27,206 | 23,677 | 24,168 | 9,490 | 12,336 | 7,169 | 5,362 | 15,635 | 5,630 |
| rate | 545 | 672 | 1,141 | 960 | 1,273 | 831 | 789 | 2,319 | 854 |
| % change in rate * | -5.7 | -5.4 | -3.7 | -3.5 | -1.0 | 2.0 | -4.1 | 3.2 | -11.7 |
| Other Criminal Code - Total | | | | | | | | | |
| number | 75,423 | 63,321 | 61,317 | 19,445 | 30,542 | 15,814 | 9,608 | 26,161 | 13,135 |
| rate | 1,512 | 1,797 | 2,894 | 1,966 | 3,152 | 1,833 | 1,413 | 3,880 | 1,992 |
| % change in rate * | -1.8 | -0.9 | -1.3 | 3.4 | -2.8 | 3.2 | 2.0 | 3.8 | -15.6 |
| CRIMINAL CODE - TOTAL - | | | | | | | | | |
| excluding Traffic | | | | | | | | | |
| number | 263,397 | 232,841 | 232,879 | 70,719 | 91,815 | 52,598 | 33,351 | 73,343 | 44,926 |
| rate | 5,281 | 6,607 | 10,993 | 7,151 | 9,476 | 6,096 | 4,905 | 10,879 | 6,812 |
| % change in rate * | -1.4 | -3.3 | -3.0 | -0.5 | 4.8 | 3.2 | -2.2 | -2.4 | -7.8 |

* In comparison to the previous year rate. Percent change based on unrounded rates.

¹ Rates are calculated on the basis of 100,000 population. The population estimates come from the Annual Demographic Statistics, 2002 report, produced by Statistics Canada, Demography Division. Populations as of July 1st are preliminary postcensal estimates for 2002.

² Note that a CMA typically comprises more than one police force.

³ Populations for all CMAs have been adjusted to follow policing boundaries.

⁴ Homicide investigations undertaken by the Missing Women's Task Force in Port Coquitlam, B.C resulted in 15 homicides being reported by police in 2002. Homicide counts reflect the year in which police file the report.

⁵ Ottawa represents the Ontario part of the Ottawa-Gatineau CMA.

Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, CCJS.

Table 5

Crime Rates for Census Metropolitan Areas by Type of Incident, Canada, 2002^{1,2}

| | Population ³ | Total CC Offences | | Violent crime | | Property crime | | Other crimes | |
|---|-------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|---------------|-------------------|----------------|-------------------|--------------|-------------------|
| | | Rate | % change in rate* | Rate | % change in rate* | Rate | % change in rate* | Rate | % change in rate* |
| CMA with population of 500,000 and over | | | | | | | | | |
| Vancouver | 2,118,504 | 10,993 | -3.0 | 1,031 | -2.1 | 7,067 | -3.8 | 2,894 | -1.3 |
| Winnipeg | 674,188 | 10,879 | -2.4 | 1,325 | -0.6 | 5,673 | -6.6 | 3,880 | 3.8 |
| Edmonton | 968,950 | 9,476 | 4.8 | 922 | -5.0 | 5,402 | 11.9 | 3,152 | -2.8 |
| Calgary | 988,873 | 7,151 | -0.5 | 817 | -6.8 | 4,368 | -0.9 | 1,966 | 3.4 |
| Hamilton | 659,539 | 6,812 | -7.8 | 993 | -5.9 | 3,827 | -3.8 | 1,992 | -15.6 |
| Montréal | 3,524,313 | 6,607 | -3.3 | 852 | -2.2 | 3,958 | -4.6 | 1,797 | -0.9 |
| Ottawa ⁴ | 862,835 | 6,096 | 3.2 | 718 | -5.4 | 3,546 | 5.2 | 1,833 | 3.2 |
| Toronto | 4,987,556 | 5,281 | -1.4 | 820 | -6.8 | 2,949 | 0.4 | 1,512 | -1.8 |
| Québec | 679,889 | 4,905 | -2.2 | 513 | -2.3 | 2,979 | -4.0 | 1,413 | 2.0 |
| CMA with population between 100,000 and 499,999 | | | | | | | | | |
| Regina | 200,417 | 14,159 | -12.2 | 1,503 | -5.6 | 8,185 | -13.9 | 4,470 | -11.1 |
| Saskatoon | 234,267 | 13,234 | 0.3 | 1,625 | -1.0 | 6,474 | -0.8 | 5,134 | 2.1 |
| Victoria | 321,064 | 10,146 | 1.5 | 1,100 | -2.9 | 5,444 | 1.4 | 3,602 | 3.1 |
| Halifax | 374,624 | 8,787 | -2.8 | 1,282 | 4.2 | 4,569 | -6.7 | 2,936 | 0.9 |
| London | 381,508 | 7,962 | -3.0 | 767 | -2.3 | 4,756 | -4.9 | 2,438 | 0.7 |
| Thunder Bay | 126,239 | 7,887 | -6.4 | 1,327 | -3.1 | 3,325 | -13.7 | 3,235 | 1.0 |
| Saint John | 146,140 | 7,451 | 18.2 | 1,148 | 0.9 | 3,404 | 13.6 | 2,899 | 33.6 |
| Windsor | 324,519 | 7,340 | 3.9 | 697 | -9.0 | 3,934 | 4.1 | 2,709 | 7.7 |
| St. John's | 176,619 | 6,869 | 6.8 | 865 | -2.7 | 3,786 | 10.0 | 2,218 | 5.6 |
| St. Catharines–Niagara | 426,450 | 6,847 | -0.5 | 708 | 6.0 | 3,795 | -2.2 | 2,343 | 0.6 |
| Sherbrooke | 146,501 | 6,826 | 4.4 | 483 | 5.4 | 4,042 | -5.6 | 2,301 | 28.2 |
| Gatineau ⁵ | 271,197 | 6,086 | 2.8 | 893 | 4.9 | 3,370 | 5.3 | 1,823 | -2.5 |
| Sudbury | 159,316 | 5,939 | -6.0 | 915 | -8.7 | 3,223 | -0.9 | 1,800 | -12.7 |
| Kitchener | 463,222 | 5,928 | 3.4 | 573 | -10.3 | 3,700 | 4.4 | 1,654 | 7.0 |
| Trois-Rivières | 145,447 | 4,716 | 1.7 | 518 | 26.6 | 2,865 | 3.8 | 1,332 | -9.3 |
| Saguenay ⁶ | 150,447 | 4,233 | -7.6 | 491 | 13.1 | 2,459 | -10.6 | 1,284 | -8.3 |

* In comparison to the previous year rate. Percent change based on un-rounded rates.

¹ Note that a CMA typically comprises more than one police force. Also, note that the Oshawa CMA is excluded from this table due to the incongruity between the police agency jurisdictional boundaries and the CMA boundaries.

² Rates are calculated per 100,000 population. The population estimates come from the Annual Demographic Statistics, 2002 report, produced by Statistics Canada, Demography Division. Populations as of July 1st: preliminary postcensal estimates for 2002.

³ Populations for all CMAs have been adjusted to better reflect police service boundaries.

⁴ Ottawa refers to the Ontario part of the Ottawa-Gatineau CMA.

⁵ Gatineau was formerly known as Hull and refers to the Quebec part of the Ottawa-Gatineau CMA.

⁶ Saguenay was formerly known as Chicoutimi-Jonquière.

Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, CCJS

Table 6

Crime Rates for the 30 Largest Police Services, by Type of Incident, Canada, 2002

| | Population ¹ | Total CC Offences | | Violent crime | | Property crime | | Other crimes | |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| | | Rate ² | % change in rate* | Rate ² | % change in rate* | Rate ² | % change in rate* | Rate ² | % change in rate* |
| Toronto Police | 2,614,956 | 6,297 | -1.1 | 1,079 | -6.7 | 3,406 | 1.0 | 1,813 | -1.5 |
| Peel Regional Police | 1,044,337 | 3,981 | -0.4 | 530 | -5.1 | 2,371 | 1.3 | 1,079 | -1.7 |
| York Regional Police | 818,013 | 4,179 | 3.4 | 511 | -4.8 | 2,620 | 4.0 | 1,048 | 6.1 |
| Durham Regional Police | 530,341 | 5,250 | -9.4 | 688 | -10.7 | 2,639 | -10.7 | 1,924 | -6.9 |
| Halton Regional Police | 394,238 | 4,091 | -3.3 | 486 | -4.0 | 2,236 | -3.5 | 1,368 | -2.7 |
| Montreal Police | 1,853,489 | 8,022 | -4.0 | 1,108 | -5.7 | 4,731 | -4.5 | 2,182 | -1.9 |
| Longueuil Police ³ | 382,401 | 6,556 | 5.2 | 830 | 14.9 | 3,857 | 2.1 | 1,870 | 7.9 |
| Laval Police ³ | 359,627 | 4,819 | -7.3 | 604 | 3.5 | 3,143 | -8.6 | 1,073 | -9.0 |
| Calgary Police | 915,453 | 7,307 | -0.4 | 842 | -7.1 | 4,549 | -0.5 | 1,916 | 3.4 |
| Ottawa Police | 817,375 | 6,248 | 3.6 | 731 | -4.7 | 3,656 | 5.6 | 1,861 | 3.2 |
| Edmonton Police | 666,739 | 11,131 | 6.1 | 1,050 | -6.2 | 6,686 | 13.2 | 3,395 | -2.1 |
| Winnipeg Police | 631,620 | 11,291 | -2.4 | 1,385 | -0.3 | 5,900 | -6.7 | 4,007 | 3.9 |
| Vancouver Police | 580,094 | 12,334 | -5.5 | 1,194 | 11.4 | 8,545 | -10.7 | 2,594 | 7.4 |
| Surrey (RCMP) Police | 349,044 | 13,564 | -3.7 | 1,310 | -16.4 | 8,751 | -1.8 | 3,504 | -3.0 |
| Burnaby (RCMP) Police | 195,383 | 11,758 | -4.4 | 1,041 | 0.1 | 7,930 | -5.1 | 2,787 | -4.2 |
| Richmond (RCMP) Police | 168,254 | 8,033 | -3.4 | 631 | 7.8 | 4,855 | -5.3 | 2,548 | -2.1 |
| Québec Police ³ | 516,740 | 5,474 | -0.3 | 572 | -3.3 | 3,335 | -2.4 | 1,567 | 5.6 |
| Hamilton Regional Police | 505,941 | 7,587 | -8.5 | 1,143 | -6.0 | 4,287 | -3.9 | 2,157 | -17.6 |
| Waterloo Regional Police | 463,222 | 5,912 | 3.6 | 571 | -10.4 | 3,693 | 4.5 | 1,647 | 7.3 |
| Niagara Regional Police | 426,450 | 6,733 | -1.4 | 701 | 5.3 | 3,752 | -3.0 | 2,280 | -0.5 |
| London Police | 346,372 | 7,987 | -2.1 | 764 | -2.8 | 4,841 | -4.0 | 2,382 | 2.2 |
| Gatineau-Métro Police | 219,717 | 6,679 | 5.4 | 1,010 | 8.8 | 3,661 | 9.4 | 2,008 | -2.7 |
| Windsor Police | 214,348 | 9,114 | 6.0 | 884 | -6.0 | 4,970 | 7.7 | 3,260 | 7.0 |
| Saskatoon Police | 206,922 | 14,044 | -0.4 | 1,735 | -1.5 | 6,915 | -1.4 | 5,394 | 1.3 |
| Halifax Regional Police | 200,928 | 11,927 | -0.6 | 1,897 | 8.2 | 6,627 | -5.1 | 3,403 | 4.5 |
| Regina Police | 184,661 | 14,722 | -12.4 | 1,559 | -6.0 | 8,554 | -14.2 | 4,610 | -11.0 |
| St. John's (RNC) Police | 176,619 | 6,869 | 6.8 | 865 | -2.7 | 3,786 | 10.0 | 2,218 | 5.6 |
| Greater Sudbury Police | 159,316 | 5,939 | -6.0 | 915 | -8.7 | 3,223 | -0.9 | 1,800 | -12.7 |
| Saguenay Police ³ | 150,447 | 4,233 | -7.6 | 491 | 13.1 | 2,459 | -10.6 | 1,284 | -8.3 |
| Sherbrooke Regional Police | 146,501 | 6,826 | 4.4 | 483 | 5.4 | 4,042 | -5.6 | 2,301 | 28.2 |

* In comparison to the previous year rate. Percent change based on non-rounded rates.

¹ Police Service population estimates were derived from 2002 preliminary postcensal population estimates (1996 Census boundaries). Demography Division, Statistics Canada.

² Rates are calculated per 100,000 population.

³ Due to police service amalgamations in 2002, the 2001 data and populations used in the calculation of the percent change in rate from the previous year for these services are a result of combining data from the services existing in 2001 prior to the amalgamation.

Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, CCJS.

Table 7

Persons Charged by Age Group and Sex, Selected Incidents, 2002

| | Age Group by Sex | | | | Total by Age Group | |
|--|-------------------------|-----------|---------------------|-----------|--------------------|-----------|
| | Adults (18 and over) | | Youth (12 to 17) | | Adult | Youth |
| | Male | Female | Male | Female | | |
| | % | % | % | | | |
| Homicide ¹ | 89 | 11 | 79 | 21 | 91 | 9 |
| Attempted murder | 87 | 13 | 92 | 8 | 89 | 11 |
| Assaults | 83 | 17 | 69 | 31 | 85 | 15 |
| Sexual assaults | 98 | 2 | 94 | 6 | 82 | 18 |
| Other sexual offences | 95 | 5 | 94 | 6 | 81 | 19 |
| Abduction | 54 | 46 | 60 | 40 | 96 | 4 |
| Robbery | 91 | 9 | 85 | 15 | 68 | 32 |
| Violent crime - Total | 84 | 16 | 73 | 27 | 84 | 16 |
| Break and enter | 93 | 7 | 89 | 11 | 63 | 37 |
| Motor vehicle theft | 91 | 9 | 84 | 16 | 60 | 40 |
| Fraud | 70 | 30 | 66 | 34 | 92 | 8 |
| Theft over \$5,000 | 76 | 24 | 81 | 19 | 87 | 13 |
| Theft \$5,000 and under | 70 | 30 | 63 | 37 | 74 | 26 |
| Property crime - Total | 77 | 23 | 75 | 25 | 74 | 26 |
| Mischief | 87 | 13 | 86 | 14 | 67 | 33 |
| Arson | 85 | 15 | 89 | 11 | 60 | 40 |
| Prostitution | 47 | 53 | 17 | 83 | 99 | 1 |
| Offensive weapons | 93 | 7 | 92 | 8 | 80 | 20 |
| Criminal Code - Total (excluding traffic) | 82 | 18 | 75 | 25 | 80 | 20 |
| Impaired driving ^{2,3} | 88 | 12 | 85 | 15 | 99 | 1 |
| Cannabis Offences | 88 | 12 | 88 | 12 | 82 | 18 |
| Cocaine Offences | 82 | 18 | 77 | 23 | 95 | 5 |
| Other Drug Offences | 83 | 17 | 84 | 16 | 89 | 11 |

¹ These data are based on the Homicide Survey, CCJS.

² Includes impaired operation of a vehicle causing death, causing bodily harm, alcohol rate over 80 mg., failure/refusal to provide a breath/blood sample.

³ Age of persons charged with impaired driving comes from the Incident-based survey (UCR2).

Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, CCJS.

Table 8



Youths Charged with Selected *Criminal Code* Incidents, Canada¹

| | 2001 ^r | | 2002 | | % change in rate* 2001-2002 | % change in rate* 1992-2002 |
|--|-------------------|--------------|------------------|--------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| | Number | Rate | Number | Rate | | |
| Population (aged 12-17) | 2,471,230 | | 2,502,828 | | | |
| Homicide | 30 | 1 | 42 | 2 | 38.2 | -27.0 |
| Attempted Murder | 70 | 3 | 65 | 3 | -8.3 | -22.3 |
| Assault Level 1 to 3 | 17,001 | 688 | 17,020 | 680 | -1.2 | 15.4 |
| Level 1 | 11,811 | 478 | 11,810 | 472 | -1.3 | 13.1 |
| Level 2-Weapon | 4,921 | 199 | 4,865 | 194 | -2.4 | 23.0 |
| Level 3-Aggravated | 269 | 11 | 345 | 14 | 26.6 | -2.5 |
| Other Assaults | 1,104 | 45 | 1,126 | 45 | 0.7 | -0.1 |
| Sexual Assault | 1,625 | 66 | 1,610 | 64 | -2.2 | -28.5 |
| Sexual Assault | 1,600 | 65 | 1,568 | 63 | -3.2 | -27.4 |
| Sexual Assault with Weapon | 16 | 1 | 30 | 1 | 85.1 | -49.8 |
| Aggravated Sexual Assault | 9 | 0 | 12 | 0 | 31.7 | -61.9 |
| Other Sexual Offences | 160 | 6 | 155 | 6 | -4.3 | -37.1 |
| Abduction | 2 | 0 | 5 | 0 | 146.8 | -48.8 |
| Robbery | 3,625 | 147 | 3,341 | 133 | -9.0 | 3.7 |
| Firearms | 351 | 14 | 214 | 9 | -39.8 | -64.9 |
| Other offensive weapons | 1,332 | 54 | 1,185 | 47 | -12.2 | 8.4 |
| Other Robbery | 1,942 | 79 | 1,942 | 78 | -1.3 | 28.0 |
| Total Crimes of Violence | 23,617 | 956 | 23,364 | 934 | -2.3 | 7.4 |
| Breaking And Entering | 12,072 | 489 | 11,475 | 458 | -6.1 | -57.3 |
| Business premises | 3,653 | 148 | 3,426 | 137 | -7.4 | -63.1 |
| Residence | 7,100 | 287 | 6,909 | 276 | -3.9 | -49.8 |
| Other Break and Enter | 1,319 | 53 | 1,140 | 46 | -14.7 | -70.1 |
| Theft - Motor Vehicle | 6,150 | 249 | 5,527 | 221 | -11.3 | -37.3 |
| Theft Over \$5,000 ² | 297 | 12 | 289 | 12 | -3.9 | -86.2 |
| Theft \$5,000 and Under ² | 19,155 | 775 | 18,975 | 758 | -2.2 | -53.7 |
| Possession of Stolen Goods | 5,547 | 224 | 5,349 | 214 | -4.8 | -34.1 |
| Frauds | 1,954 | 79 | 1,734 | 69 | -12.4 | -55.8 |
| Total Property Crimes | 45,175 | 1,828 | 43,349 | 1,732 | -5.3 | -52.2 |
| Mischief | 6,984 | 283 | 7,014 | 280 | -0.8 | -28.7 |
| Counterfeiting currency | 135 | 5 | 178 | 7 | 30.2 | 290.3 |
| Bail violations | 11,490 | 465 | 11,329 | 453 | -2.6 | 42.5 |
| Disturb the peace | 795 | 32 | 750 | 30 | -6.9 | -31.1 |
| Offensive Weapons | 1,702 | 69 | 1,576 | 63 | -8.6 | -23.8 |
| Prostitution | 31 | 1 | 41 | 2 | 30.6 | -89.4 |
| Arson | 701 | 28 | 547 | 22 | -23.0 | -23.7 |
| Other | 12,060 | 488 | 10,852 | 434 | -11.2 | -11.8 |
| Total - Other Criminal Code Offences | 33,898 | 1,372 | 32,287 | 1,290 | -6.0 | -6.1 |
| TOTAL - CRIMINAL CODE (Excluding Traffic) | 102,690 | 4,155 | 99,000 | 3,956 | -4.8 | -32.6 |

* Percent change based on unrounded rates.

^r revised

¹ Rates are calculated on the basis of 100,000 youth. The population estimates come from the Annual Demographic Statistics, 2002 report, produced by Statistics Canada, Demography Division. Populations as of July 1st: updated postcensal estimates for 2001; preliminary postcensal estimates for 2002.

² Prior to 1995, theft offences were categorized into Theft \$1,000 and Under and Theft Over \$1,000. In 1995 the dollar value was increased.

Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, CCJS.

Table 9

Youth Charged With Selected *Criminal Code* Incidents, Canada and the Provinces/Territories, 2002¹

| | Nfld.Lab. | P.E.I. | N.S. | N.B. | Que. | Ont. | Man. | Sask. | Alta. | B.C. | Yukon | N.W.T. | Nvt. | Canada |
|--|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|---------------|----------------|----------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|------------------|
| Population (aged 12-17) | 43,992 | 12,432 | 76,269 | 59,425 | 546,205 | 965,088 | 100,963 | 94,784 | 271,110 | 321,932 | 2,808 | 4,175 | 3,645 | 2,502,828 |
| Homicide | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| number | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 14 | 7 | 0 | 5 | 11 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 42 |
| rate | 2.3 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 1.7 | 0.2 | 1.5 | 6.9 | 0.0 | 1.8 | 3.4 | 0.0 | 24.0 | 27.4 | 1.7 |
| % change in rate* | ... | 0.0 | ... | ... | -50.6 | 24.6 | 130.5 | -100.0 | -29.4 | 447.5 | 0.0 | ... | ... | 38.2 |
| Sexual Assault (1,2,3) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| number | 35 | 8 | 63 | 51 | 216 | 630 | 87 | 123 | 162 | 206 | 4 | 11 | 14 | 1,610 |
| rate | 80 | 64 | 83 | 86 | 40 | 65 | 86 | 130 | 60 | 64 | 142 | 263 | 384 | 64 |
| % change in rate* | -34.9 | 98.1 | 65.4 | 4.9 | 29.5 | -6.7 | -4.5 | 20.8 | -12.5 | -16.3 | -48.4 | 20.1 | -16.9 | -2.2 |
| Assault (1,2,3) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| number | 323 | 39 | 485 | 408 | 2,211 | 7,263 | 1,075 | 1,061 | 2,040 | 1,989 | 18 | 67 | 41 | 17,020 |
| rate | 734 | 314 | 636 | 687 | 405 | 753 | 1,065 | 1,119 | 752 | 618 | 641 | 1,605 | 1,125 | 680 |
| % change in rate* | 8.3 | -25.7 | 7.3 | 2.5 | 4.0 | -2.6 | -7.7 | -5.8 | 0.3 | 1.3 | -60.5 | -8.6 | 14.5 | -1.2 |
| Robbery | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| number | 15 | 5 | 74 | 20 | 484 | 1,460 | 297 | 226 | 425 | 326 | 5 | 4 | 0 | 3,341 |
| rate | 34 | 40 | 97 | 34 | 89 | 151 | 294 | 238 | 157 | 101 | 178 | 96 | 0 | 133 |
| % change in rate* | -19.3 | 65.1 | -13.2 | -50.8 | -8.1 | -12.6 | -1.6 | -13.3 | 4.2 | -7.0 | 29.1 | 96.5 | -100.0 | -9.0 |
| Violent crime - Total | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| number | 396 | 54 | 673 | 529 | 3,156 | 9,884 | 1,573 | 1,508 | 2,770 | 2,633 | 33 | 91 | 64 | 23,364 |
| rate | 900 | 434 | 882 | 890 | 578 | 1,024 | 1,558 | 1,591 | 1,022 | 818 | 1,175 | 2,180 | 1,756 | 934 |
| % change in rate* | 2.0 | -18.9 | 7.9 | -2.4 | 4.0 | -4.4 | -3.4 | -6.2 | -0.3 | -2.3 | -44.1 | -2.8 | -7.9 | -2.3 |
| Breaking & Entering | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| number | 353 | 58 | 410 | 208 | 1,424 | 3,495 | 855 | 1,483 | 1,729 | 1,058 | 59 | 173 | 170 | 11,475 |
| rate | 802 | 467 | 538 | 350 | 261 | 362 | 847 | 1,565 | 638 | 329 | 2,101 | 4,144 | 4,664 | 458 |
| % change in rate* | -22.5 | -17.9 | -0.2 | -20.3 | -0.6 | -3.0 | -11.3 | -11.7 | 10.2 | -25.7 | 96.5 | 6.9 | 25.1 | -6.1 |
| Motor Vehicle Theft | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| number | 110 | 18 | 154 | 136 | 558 | 1,519 | 847 | 694 | 855 | 560 | 21 | 38 | 17 | 5,527 |
| rate | 250 | 145 | 202 | 229 | 102 | 157 | 839 | 732 | 315 | 174 | 748 | 910 | 466 | 221 |
| % change in rate* | -13.5 | -47.5 | -16.1 | 14.2 | -8.6 | -21.9 | 7.1 | -15.3 | -12.8 | 5.0 | 27.5 | 16.6 | -32.7 | -11.3 |
| Other Theft | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| number | 344 | 63 | 579 | 663 | 2,076 | 7,031 | 1,408 | 1,538 | 2,899 | 2,555 | 24 | 54 | 30 | 19,264 |
| rate | 782 | 507 | 759 | 1,116 | 380 | 729 | 1,395 | 1,623 | 1,069 | 794 | 855 | 1,293 | 823 | 770 |
| % change in rate* | -19.1 | -25.7 | 2.0 | 11.9 | 2.7 | -8.7 | 3.7 | 6.4 | 10.7 | -6.9 | -34.8 | -19.6 | 35.6 | -2.2 |
| Property crime - Total | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| number | 855 | 145 | 1,207 | 1,119 | 4,526 | 15,787 | 3,457 | 4,297 | 6,654 | 4,685 | 111 | 286 | 220 | 43,349 |
| rate | 1,944 | 1,166 | 1,583 | 1,883 | 829 | 1,636 | 3,424 | 4,533 | 2,454 | 1,455 | 3,953 | 6,850 | 6,036 | 1,732 |
| % change in rate* | -20.7 | -31.6 | -2.0 | 0.9 | -1.2 | -7.9 | -3.6 | -7.7 | 6.1 | -11.5 | 11.3 | 4.8 | 18.7 | -5.3 |
| Offensive weapons | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| number | 10 | 0 | 35 | 15 | 54 | 706 | 157 | 117 | 270 | 206 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 1,576 |
| rate | 23 | 0 | 46 | 25 | 10 | 73 | 156 | 123 | 100 | 64 | 71 | 48 | 55 | 63 |
| % change in rate* | -31.8 | 0.0 | 16.4 | -51.2 | -32.4 | -8.6 | -6.0 | 7.5 | -7.4 | -5.5 | -48.4 | -50.9 | -52.5 | -8.6 |
| Mischief | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| number | 160 | 30 | 226 | 237 | 685 | 2,408 | 497 | 782 | 1,127 | 733 | 43 | 48 | 38 | 7,014 |
| rate | 364 | 241 | 296 | 399 | 125 | 250 | 492 | 825 | 416 | 228 | 1,531 | 1,150 | 1,043 | 280 |
| % change in rate* | -15.7 | 2.5 | -2.0 | -15.0 | -1.5 | -0.1 | 18.6 | -1.1 | 8.4 | -14.7 | 101.8 | -38.0 | 112.2 | -0.8 |
| Other Criminal Code - Total | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| number | 765 | 94 | 1,086 | 921 | 2,606 | 12,403 | 2,534 | 4,222 | 4,658 | 2,554 | 142 | 189 | 113 | 32,287 |
| rate | 1,739 | 756 | 1,424 | 1,550 | 477 | 1,285 | 2,510 | 4,454 | 1,718 | 793 | 5,057 | 4,527 | 3,100 | 1,290 |
| % change in rate* | -0.1 | -2.0 | 15.6 | -3.2 | -2.2 | -10.2 | 4.9 | -8.0 | -4.2 | -7.1 | 41.0 | -33.2 | 47.0 | -6.0 |
| CRIMINAL CODE - TOTAL - (Excluding Traffic) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| number | 2,016 | 293 | 2,966 | 2,569 | 10,288 | 38,074 | 7,564 | 10,027 | 14,082 | 9,872 | 286 | 566 | 397 | 99,000 |
| rate | 4,583 | 2,357 | 3,889 | 4,323 | 1,884 | 3,945 | 7,492 | 10,579 | 5,194 | 3,066 | 10,185 | 13,557 | 10,892 | 3,956 |
| % change in rate* | -9.7 | -21.8 | 6.2 | -1.3 | 0.1 | -7.8 | -0.9 | -7.6 | 1.2 | -8.1 | 10.2 | -12.9 | 19.7 | -4.8 |

* In comparison to the previous year rate. Percent change based on unrounded rates.

... not applicable

¹ Rates are calculated on the basis of 100,000 population. The population estimates come from the Annual Demographic Statistics, 2001 report, produced by Statistics Canada, Demography Division. Populations as of July 1st; preliminary postcensal estimates for 2002.

Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, CCJS.

Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics

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SEXUAL OFFENCES IN CANADA

by Rebecca Kong, Holly Johnson, Sara Beattie and Andrea Cardillo

Highlights

- The rate of sexual offences reported to the police declined by 36% between 1993 and 2002. Declines occurred for sexual assault as well as for other sexual offences such as sexual exploitation and invitation to sexual touching.
- In 2002, the highest rates of sexual offences were reported in the territories. Among provinces, rates were highest in Saskatchewan and Manitoba and lowest in Quebec.
- Among Census Metropolitan Areas, rates were highest in Saskatoon, Sudbury and Regina, and lowest in Ottawa.
- Over 80% of victims in sexual offences reported to a subset of police departments were female. Males made up 29% of child victims, 8% of adult and 12% of youth victims.
- Rates of victimization reported to the police were highest among female teenagers and young adults. Rates of sexual offending were highest among male teenagers.
- Victimization surveys have found that sexual offences are among the crimes least likely to be reported to the police. Once reported to police, sexual offences are also less likely than other violent offences to be considered by police to be "founded" and are less likely to result in charges laid against a suspect.
- Persons charged with sexual offences are less likely than other violent offenders to be found guilty in adult court. Sexual offenders found guilty in adult court are more likely than other violent offenders to receive a prison sentence.
- Sexual offenders appear before adult court with a higher percentage of multiple charges compared to other offenders, and therefore require a much longer time to be processed through court.
- In youth court, only those convicted of sexual assault level 1 were found guilty at the same rate as other violent offenders. Youth charged with levels 2 and 3 and other sexual offences had lower conviction rates. Sexual assault levels 2 and 3 were more likely to result in custodial sentences than were other types of sexual offences and other violent offences.



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INTRODUCTION

Over the past two decades, understanding and awareness of sexual offences, as well as responses to these behaviours, have undergone many changes. On the legislative front, this transition began with the 1983 amendments to the *Criminal Code* that replaced the crimes of rape and indecent assault with a three-tier structure of sexual assault. The goals of these amendments were to emphasize the violent rather than the sexual nature of such crimes, and to increase victims' confidence in the criminal justice system and willingness to report these crimes to the police (Department of Justice, 1985). Amendments also eliminated immunity for those accused of sexually assaulting a spouse, removed reference to the gender of victims and perpetrators, and restricted the admissibility of evidence about the complainant's prior sexual history. Further, in 1988, *Criminal Code* provisions specific to sexual offences against children were implemented (see *Developments in Sexual Offences and Related Legislation: A Chronology*, page 11).

More recently, with the evolution in technology and globalization, legislators and policy makers have had to react to emerging issues of child pornography, the luring of children over the Internet, and trafficking in persons for the purpose of sexual exploitation. Child prostitution is also an issue of concern. Child prostitutes are generally viewed as victims of exploitation and abuse who are in need of assistance, although they may still be charged with prostitution-related offences (Bittle, 2002).

This *Juristat* presents statistical data on the extent and nature of sexual offences, and provides qualitative information on related issues of child pornography, trafficking in persons for the purpose of sexual exploitation, and child prostitution. The data used in the report are from Statistics Canada and include police statistics from the Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR2) Survey¹ and the Homicide Survey, and court data from the Adult Criminal Court Survey and the Youth Court Survey. This *Juristat* also presents analysis from the 1999 General Social Survey on Victimization, which collected information from a representative sample of Canadians 15 years of age and older on their experiences as victims of crime.

TRENDS IN SEXUAL OFFENCES REPORTED TO THE POLICE

Sexual offences in this *Juristat* includes sexual assault levels 1, 2 and 3, as well as the category of "other sexual offences" which are a group of offences designed primarily to protect children from sexual abuse (see page 5, Box *Sexual Offences Defined* for *Criminal Code* definitions of these offences).

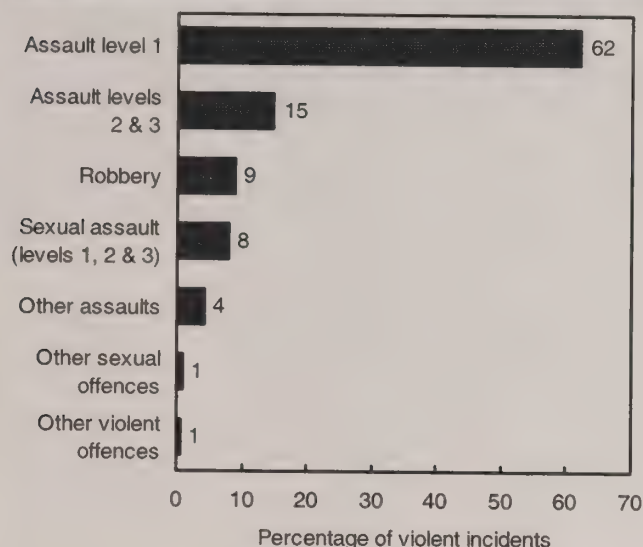
In 2002, 27,094 incidents involving sexual offences were reported to police in Canada (Table 1). Sexual assault level 1 (the category of least physical injury to the victim) accounted for 88% of these. Other sexual offences accounted for 10%, and sexual assault levels 2 and 3 accounted for the remaining 2%.

Among the 2.4 million *Criminal Code* incidents reported by police in 2002, sexual offences accounted for just 1%, a proportion that has not changed for the last 10 years. Among the 303,294 *violent* incidents reported by police, total sexual offences accounted for 9%, with sexual assaults (levels 1, 2 and 3) making up 8% and other sexual offences accounting for 1% (Figure 1).

¹ A subset of 154 police departments participated in the UCR2 representing 59% of the national volume of crime in Canada in 2002. For the purposes of this publication, Ontario Provincial Police rural divisions have been removed from the UCR2. This is due to an absence of accurate population estimates for those areas which are needed to calculate rates. The remaining police forces used for this analysis represent 56% of the national volume of reported crime in 2002.

Figure 1

Distribution of reported violent offences, 2002



Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

Recent decline in sexual offences reported to police

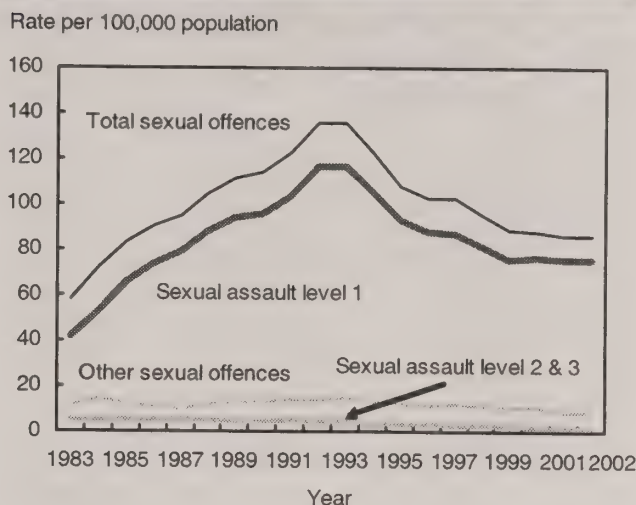
After the passage of the reform legislation in 1983, the rate of total sexual offences reported to police began to increase (see Figure 2). The increase continued until 1993, peaking at 136 incidents per 100,000 population. This trend has been driven by sexual assault level 1. Rates of sexual assault levels 2 and 3 declined between 1983 and 2002, while rates of other sexual offences fluctuated.

This dramatic rise in the overall rate of police-reported sexual offences following the introduction of the new legislation has been the subject of much analysis. In general, researchers have found insufficient evidence to attribute the rise solely to legislative reform, but suggest that other related social changes also encouraged victims to come forward (Roberts and Gebotys, 1992; Roberts and Grossman, 1994; Department of Justice, 1985). Examples of social changes during this period are: improvements to the social, economic and political status of women; a heightened focus on victims of crime and the growth in services and initiatives to support them, including sexual assault centres; special training of police officers to deal with victims, and; the growth of treatment teams in hospitals trained to respond to victims of sexual assault and gather evidence that could be used at trial (Clark and Hepworth, 1994).

After the peak in 1993, the rate of sexual offences reported to the police then declined, which parallels the overall downward trend for violent offences. Possible explanations for these declines are recent shifts in the age structure of the population and changing social values. Declines in rates of sexual offences

Figure 2

Trends in rates of police-reported sexual offences, 1983 to 2002



Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

coincided with a decrease in the proportion of the population aged 15-34. Since young adults have higher rates of criminal victimization and offending than other age groups, crime rates can be expected to decline as their share of the population declines. Changing social values related to sexual assault have also coincided with an aging population, and the combined effect may be more important than demographic shifts alone.

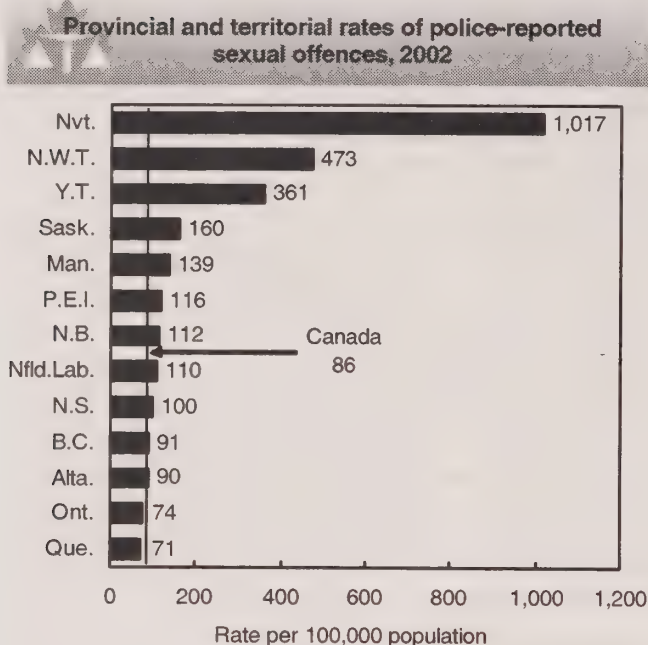
In 2002, the rate of reported sexual offences remained at 86 incidents per 100,000 population, virtually unchanged from the previous year. While the 2002 rate was 36% below the 1993 peak, it was still 47% higher than in 1983.

The rate for sexual assault level 1 has declined 35% from the peak figure in 1993 (Table 1) and has remained stable since 1999. Rates for sexual assault levels 2 and 3 are relatively low, so small changes in the rates can result in large changes in percentage terms. These offences declined steadily since 1993, by 60%. The rate of other sexual offences declined by 40% over this time period.

Rates across the provinces and territories vary widely

There is considerable regional variation in the rates of police-reported sexual offences across Canada. In 2002, as with other violent crimes, the rate of sexual offences was highest in Nunavut (1,017 per 100,000 population) followed by the other two territories (Figure 3). Among the provinces, Saskatchewan (160) and Manitoba (139) had the highest rates. The lowest rates were recorded in Quebec (71) and Ontario (74). Rates for these two provinces were below the national average of 86 sexual offences per 100,000 population.

Figure 3



Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, Quebec, Manitoba, Saskatchewan and the territories all reported a rise in the rate of sexual offences between 2001 and 2002, with the largest increases in Yukon (36%) and Prince Edward Island (34%) (Table 2). Rates in the remaining provinces decreased. With a drop of 11%, New Brunswick registered the largest decline in the rate of sexual offences, closely followed by Newfoundland and Labrador (-10%). Over the last decade, provincial/territorial rates have generally been declining.

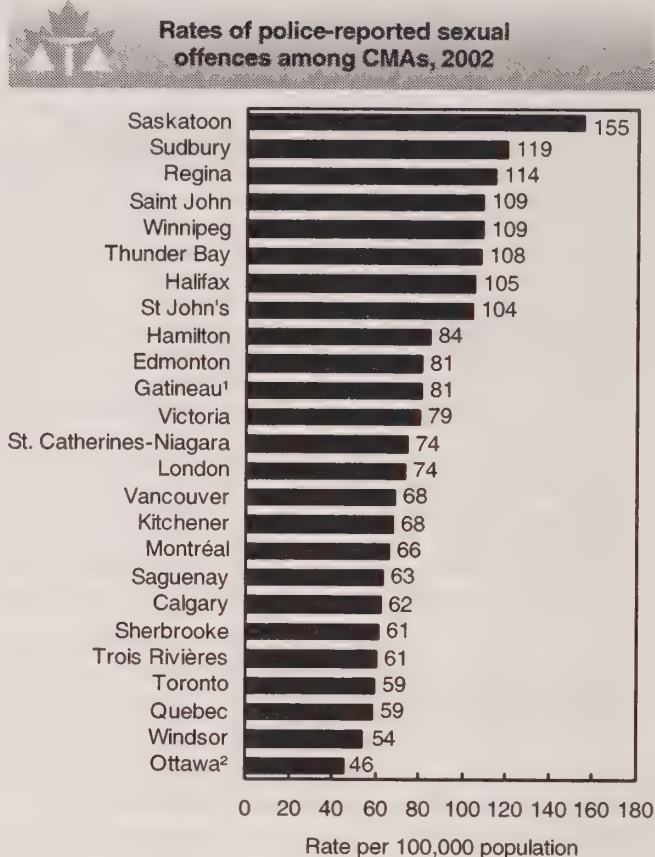
Rates among cities

Figure 4 shows rates of police-reported sexual offences among Census Metropolitan Areas (CMAs).² In 2002, CMAs with the highest rates were Saskatoon, Sudbury and Regina. Those with the lowest rates were the Ontario cities of Ottawa and Windsor.

The range in rates of sexual offences at the CMA level was very large, with the highest-rate CMA more than three times higher than the lowest-rate city.

In the absence of an extensive evaluation, it is difficult to pinpoint for certain the factors that contribute to the disparity in rates of sexual offences among the provinces, territories and CMAs. Possible contributing factors include variations in public attitudes toward sexual assault that may influence reporting rates among victims, police policies regarding the diversion of young offenders, police training, or services for victims in the community (examples include hospital-based programs for the collection of evidence, and sexual assault counseling centres).

Figure 4



¹ Includes the Gatineau portion of the Ottawa-Gatineau CMA.

² Includes the Ottawa portion of the Ottawa-Gatineau CMA.

Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

HOMICIDES INVOLVING SEXUAL VIOLENCE AND PROSTITUTION

Criminal incidents are classified in the Uniform Crime Reporting Survey according to the most serious in the incident (see Methodology section, page 12). Sexual assault levels 2 and 3 are classified as more serious than most other crimes, but sexual assault level 1 will be classified lower than the more serious forms of physical assault (levels 2 and 3) if they occurred in the same incident. Sexual assaults that precipitate a homicide will likewise be classified as homicides. However,

² A census metropolitan area (CMA) is a very large urban area (known as the urban core) together with adjacent urban and rural areas (known as urban and rural fringes) that have a high degree of social and economic integration with the urban core. A CMA has an urban core population of at least 100,000, based on the previous census. Once an area becomes a CMA, it is retained as a CMA even if the population of its urban core declines below 100,000. A CMA typically comprises more than one police force. The Oshawa CMA is excluded due to the incongruity between the police boundary and the CMA boundary.

Sexual offences defined

The term *sexual offences* encompasses a wide range of criminal acts in the *Criminal Code of Canada*. Such conduct ranges from unwanted sexual touching to sexual violence resulting in serious physical injury or disfigurement to the victim. It also includes special categories of offences designed to protect children from sexual abuse.

In this *Juristat*, the term *sexual assault* includes the following *Criminal Code* offences:

- (a) Sexual assault level 1 (s. 271) – an assault committed in circumstances of a sexual nature such that the sexual integrity of the victim is violated. Level 1 involves minor physical injuries or no injuries to the victim. This is a hybrid offence and may be prosecuted as an indictable offence (with a maximum sentence of 10 years imprisonment) or by way of summary conviction (with a maximum sentence of 18 months imprisonment or \$2,000 fine).³
- (b) Sexual assault level 2 (s. 272) – sexual assault with a weapon, threats or causing bodily harm. Level 2 is an indictable offence carrying a maximum sentence of 14 years imprisonment. A mandatory minimum sentence of 4 years in prison is imposed if a firearm is used.
- (c) Aggravated sexual assault (level 3) – sexual assault that results in wounding, maiming, disfiguring or endangering the life of the victim. Level 3 is an indictable offence carrying a maximum sentence of life imprisonment. A mandatory minimum sentence of 4 years in prison is imposed if a firearm is used.

The term *other sexual offences* includes a group of offences that are meant primarily to address incidents of sexual abuse directed at children. The *Criminal Code* offences included in this category are:

- (a) Sexual interference (s.151) – the direct or indirect touching (for a sexual purpose) of a person under the age of 14 years using a part of the body or an object. This is a hybrid offence and may be processed as an indictable offence (with a maximum sentence of 10 years imprisonment) or by way of summary conviction.³
- (b) Invitation to sexual touching (s. 152) – inviting, counseling, or inciting a person under the age of 14 years to touch (for a sexual purpose) the body of any person directly or indirectly with a part of the body or with an object. This is a hybrid offence and may be processed as an indictable offence (with a maximum sentence of 10 years imprisonment) or by way of summary conviction.
- (c) Sexual exploitation (s. 153) – a person in a position of trust or authority towards a young person or a person with whom the young person is in a relationship of dependency, commits sexual interference or invitation to sexual touching. "Young person" refers to a person between 14 and 18 years of age. This is a hybrid offence and may be processed as an indictable offence (with a maximum sentence of 5 years imprisonment) or by way of summary conviction.
- (d) Incest (s. 155) – sexual intercourse with a person that has a known defined blood relationship with them. This is an indictable offence carrying a maximum sentence of 14 years imprisonment.
- (e) Anal intercourse (s. 159) – with the exception of married couples and other persons over the age of 18 who consent and who engage in these acts in private. This is a hybrid offence and may be processed as an indictable offence (with a maximum sentence of 10 years imprisonment) or by way of summary conviction.⁴
- (f) Bestiality (s. 160) – Anyone who commits or compels another person to commit bestiality is guilty of a hybrid offence and may be processed as an indictable offence (with a maximum sentence of 10 years imprisonment) or by way of summary conviction.

Indecent Acts and Corrupting Morals

Two related offences, not included under the definition of sexual offences in this *Juristat*, are *indecent acts and corrupting morals*.

Indecent acts

Section 173(1) (b) states that anyone who commits an indecent act in any place with the intent to insult or offend anyone is guilty of an offence. Section 173(2) states every person who, in any place, for a sexual purpose, exposes one's genitals to a person under the age of 14 is guilty of an offence. These are punishable on summary conviction with maximum penalties of a \$2000 fine or 6 months in prison.

Corrupting morals

Section 163 of the *Criminal Code* states that it is an offence to produce, publish or distribute any obscene material, recordings, or pictures. It is an offence to knowingly and without lawful justification sell or expose to public view, any act which relates to obscenity or indecent objects. Material shall be deemed to be obscene if a dominant characteristic is the undue exploitation of sex, or the combination of sex and at least one of crime, horror, cruelty or violence. It is a hybrid offence and may be processed by way of summary or indictable conviction (maximum penalty as an indictable offence is two years in prison, as a summary conviction is a fine not exceeding \$2000 or imprisonment for 6 months).

Trend data on indecent acts and corrupting morals are available through a subset of 104 police agencies that have participated in the Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR2) Survey consistently since 1995 and represent 42% of the national volume of crime in 2001. The number of indecent acts that came to the attention of this subset of police forces decreased by 27% between 1995 and 2002, from 3,308 incidents to 2,408. The number of corrupting moral incidents also decreased (8%) from 130 incidents to 120 over this period.

Of the police-reported incidents of indecent acts in 2002, a minority (27%) resulted in charges being laid by the police. Though incidents involving corrupting morals were fewer in number, charges were laid in a higher proportion of cases (32%).

the more detailed Homicide Survey shows that, between 1991 and 2001, 184 homicides out of a total of 6,714 (less than 3%) were preceded by sexual assault toward the victim. Most of these incidents had an identified accused (89%) and the vast majority of these accused (98%) were male (Table 3). The majority of sexual assault-related homicides (82%) involved female victims. About half of all victims were under age 25 and 14% were children under 15. In contrast, two-thirds of accused were 25 years of age or older.

Prostitutes are at a heightened risk of violence and homicide. Between 1991 and 2001, a total of 50 homicides in Canada were identified by police as occurring in the context of prostitution and victims were either clients or prostitutes.⁵ Two-thirds (33) of these victims were female and one-third (17) were male. Four-in-ten were under the age of 25. In only 33 cases was an accused identified, a rate for solved cases that is lower than for homicides overall (66% compared to 79%).

³ A hybrid offence may be processed as a summary or indictable offence. Except where otherwise stated by law, the maximum penalty for a summary conviction is a fine not exceeding two thousand dollars or imprisonment for 6 months or both.

⁴ The section has been found to be unconstitutional by the Ontario and Quebec Courts of Appeal (R. v M(C) (1995), 98 C.C.C. (3d) 481. (Ont. C.A.) and R. v Roy (1998), 125 C.C.C. (3d) 442 (Que. C.A.))

⁵ This excludes a large number of recent cases in British Columbia involving missing women. These will be coded in 2002, the year in which they became known to the police as homicides.

VICTIMIZATION SURVEY REPORTS OF SEXUAL ASSAULT

Victimization surveys provide an alternative to police statistics in that they interview victims directly about their experiences of crime and therefore include both incidents that were reported to the police and those that were not reported. This is an important source of information in the case of sexual assault since these crimes are among the least likely to be reported to police. Statistics Canada's 1999 General Social Survey (GSS) on Victimization found that victims 15 years of age and older did not report 78% of sexual assaults to the police that year.⁶ This is considerably higher than the unreported rate for robbery (51%), physical assault (61%), and break and enter (35%).

The 1999 GSS measures two aspects of sexual assault victimization: sexual attack and unwanted sexual touching. These are measured by the following two questions:⁷

Sexual attack: During the past 12 months, has anyone forced you or attempted to force you into any unwanted sexual activity by threatening you, holding you down or hurting you in some way?

Unwanted sexual touching: During the past 12 months, has anyone ever touched you against your will in any sexual way? By this I mean anything from unwanted touching or grabbing, to kissing or fondling.

According to the GSS definition, an estimated 502,000 Canadians 15 years and older living in the 10 provinces had experienced a sexual assault in the 12 months prior to the survey. This translates into a rate of 21 incidents per 1,000 population age 15 and older (33 per 1,000 women and 8 per 1,000 men). The change in the rate of sexual assault over the last GSS on Victimization in 1993 – 16 per 1,000 population – was not statistically significant (See Besserer and Trainor, 2000).⁸

These figures do not count sexual assaults perpetrated by spouses. An in-depth module in the 1999 GSS addressed the issue of spousal violence separately and found that, overall, 8% of women and 7% of men reported some type of violence by a common-law or marital partner in the 5 years preceding the survey. Among these victims, 20% of women and 3%⁹ of men reported experiencing at least one incident of sexual assault (defined as sexual attack only in the case of spouses). This amounts to an estimated 138,000 women and 14,000 men who were sexually assaulted by a spousal partner over the 5 year period.

Because they include a large number of incidents not reported to the police, victimization surveys produce estimates that are higher than rates derived from police statistics. This is the case even though sexual assaults recorded in victimization surveys exclude those committed against children under 15 years old, and the population residing in institutions or in Canada's three territories.

Most are unwanted sexual touching, most victims women

The majority of sexual assault victimizations reported to the 1999 GSS (involving perpetrators other than spouses) were unwanted sexual touching (77%) as opposed to sexual attack (23%). The vast majority of sexual assaults were perpetrated against women (82%), and half of all victims were 15-25 years of age.

The most common locations for sexual assaults to occur were bars and restaurants and other commercial locations (23% and 14%, respectively), public places (21%), the victim's own home (15%) or the home of someone else (19%).

Sexual assaults are unlikely to come to the attention of the police, and this is more often the case for unwanted sexual touching than for sexual attacks (81% and 69%, respectively).

Reasons for not reporting to police

Responses to questions about reasons for not reporting to police cannot be analyzed separately for victims of unwanted sexual touching and sexual attack due to small sample counts. Altogether, victims of sexual assault provided a range of reasons for not reporting incidents to police (Table 4). Many did not report because the incident was dealt with another way (61%), they felt it wasn't important enough (50%), they felt it was a personal matter (50%), or they didn't want the police involved (47%).¹⁰ While 33% did not report because they did not think the police could do anything, another 18% felt that the police would not help them. Other reasons were fear of revenge by the offender (19%), and wanting to avoid publicity over the incident (14%).¹¹

Reasons for not reporting to police that stand out for sexual assault victims, as compared to the other violent crimes measured by the GSS, relate to the sensitive nature of these events: higher proportions avoided calling the police because they considered it a personal matter that did not concern the police, or because they feared publicity.

Use of other supports

Just as sexual assault victims were less likely than victims of other violent crimes to report to the police, they were less likely to seek help from formal or informal supports. Smaller percentages, as compared to robbery or assault victims, said they spoke about the incident with family, friends or neighbours, or co-workers (Table 5).

⁶ Eight percent of incidents were reported to police, but this estimate is based on small counts and therefore has a high coefficient of variation (greater than 33.3%). In 14% of cases, victims did not know if the incident was reported or refused to answer.

⁷ These questions were designed to closely resemble the Criminal Code definition of sexual assault.

⁸ Due to the relatively low counts of sexual assaults reported to each of these surveys, these estimates have large and overlapping coefficients of variation. The difference is therefore not statistically significant.

⁹ Coefficient of variation for this figure is between 16.6% and 33.3%. Use with caution.

¹⁰ Percentages exceed 100% due to multiple responses.

¹¹ Coefficient of variation for this figure is between 16.6% and 33.3%. Use with caution.

VICTIM CHARACTERISTICS

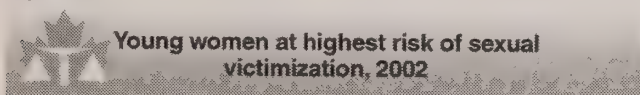
A common pattern shown in both police and victimization survey data is that young women and girls are at the highest risk of sexual assault victimization.

Young women and girls at highest risk

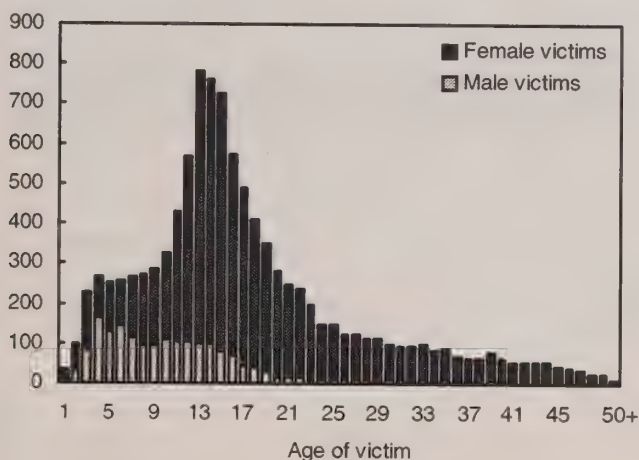
Compared to other violent crimes, females are much more likely to be victims of sexual assault than are males. Females accounted for 85% of victims of sexual offences who reported to a sample of police services reporting to the Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey (UCR2) in 2002,¹² compared to 48% of victims of all other violent crimes. Females also represented 82% of the population 15 years and older who reported a sexual assault victimization to the 1999 GSS, compared to 43% of victims of all other violent victimizations.

Victims of sexual offences also tend to be young. In 2002, over half (61%) of all victims of sexual offences reported to the police were children and youth under 18 years of age. Controlling for populations served by this sample of police services, rates of sexual offences known to the police were highest among girls aged 11 to 19, with the highest rate at age 13 (781 per 100,000 population) (Figure 5). Among male victims, rates were highest for boys 3 to 14 years of age.

Figure 5



Rate per 100,000 population



Data are based on 154 police agencies (excluding OPP Rural) participating in the UCR2 Survey, representing 56% of the national volume of reported crime.

Source: Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey (UCR2), Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

While males make up a small proportion of victims of sexual offences overall (15%), this proportion is higher for younger victims. In incidents involving children under 12, boys made up 29% of victims compared to 12% of youth aged 12-18 and 8% of adults.

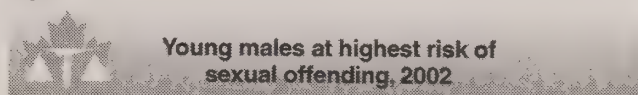
Among adults (aged 15 and older) interviewed for the 1999 GSS, rates of sexual assault were highest among women, those 15 to 24 years of age, those who were single, separated or divorced, as well as students, those who participated in at least 30 evening activities outside the home per month, and those who had a household income of less than \$15,000 or who lived in urban areas (Table 6).

PROFILE OF ACCUSED PERSONS

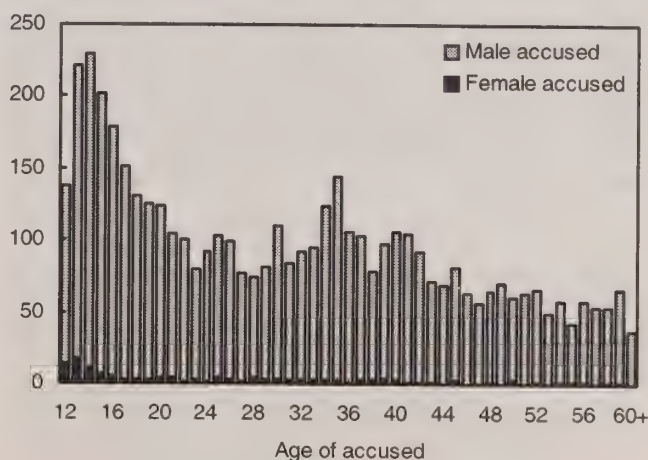
According to the UCR2, in 2002, 97% of persons accused of sexual offences were male, higher than the representation of males among persons accused of all other types of violent offences (82%).

Overall, compared to other violent offenders, sexual offenders are somewhat older. In 2002, the mean age of persons charged by police with sexual offences was 33 years as compared to 31 for those charged with other violent offences. However, rates of sexual offending were highest among the youngest males, those aged 13 to 17 (Figure 6), and peaked for 13 and 14-year-olds (221 and 230 per 100,000). The wide difference in rates of victimization and offending shown in Figures 5 and 6 is due to the fact that a relatively small percentage of reported sexual offences have a suspect identified.

Figure 6



Rate per 100,000 population



Data are based on 154 police agencies (excluding OPP Rural) participating in the UCR2 Survey, representing 56% of the national volume of reported crime.

Source: Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey (UCR2), Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

¹² The incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR2) survey captures detailed information on individual criminal incidents reported to police, including characteristics of victims, accused persons and incidents. In 2002, 154 police services in 9 provinces participated in this survey representing 59% of the national volume of reported crime. Other than Ontario and Québec, the data are primarily from urban police departments. The reader is cautioned that these data are not nationally representative.

This peak among 13 and 14-year-olds applies to sexual assault level 1 and other sexual offences, but not to sexual assault levels 2 or 3, where there is no discernable age-related pattern among accused. Compared to their older counterparts, sexual offences involving these young teens more often involve young victims their own age, family members or casual acquaintances, and are more likely to take place in single homes or in or around schools. They are also somewhat more likely to be dealt with informally by police.

The National Longitudinal Survey of Children and Youth can shed some light on the prevalence of sexual offending among teenagers. This survey asks teenagers how often they have committed certain acts of delinquency. In the 3rd cycle in 1998/99, 3.9% of boys 12 to 15 years of age reported that they had either "sexually touched someone who was unwilling" (3.3%) or "forced someone to have sex" (1.3%).¹³ This represents an estimated 26,800 boys who have engaged in sexual offences. The numbers of girls reporting these behaviours was too small to make statistically reliable estimates. The proportion of boys who reported involvement in sexual offences is similar to the proportion who reported selling drugs (4.8%) but lower than the proportion who had engaged in property-related offences (38.3%) or other violent offences (29.7%).

The percentage of 12 to 15 year-old girls who reported selling drugs or engaging in property-related offences was comparable to boys (4.8% and 35.9%, respectively), but fewer girls reported engaging in other violent offences (10.9%).¹⁴

Accused most often known to victims

About half of sexual assault victims who reported to the sample of police services represented in UCR2 were assaulted by a friend or acquaintance (10% and 41%, respectively), 28% by a family member, and 20% by a stranger (Table 7). Children under 12 were most often victimized by family members, especially in the case of girls (51%). Parents (20%) were less likely than other relatives (29%) to be identified as suspects. In comparison, youth aged 12 to 17 and adults were most frequently victimized by acquaintances (47% and 40%, respectively).

Dating violence

Rates of dating violence reported to the police suggest that girls under the age of 16 have the highest rates of sexual violence by a dating partner, but that women aged 18 to 20 have the highest rates of physical assaults by dates (Figures 7 and 8). Males reported few cases of sexual violence by dating partners and lower rates of physical assault. These data include incidents involving all ages of victims, but only those who report to the police.¹⁵

¹³ Coefficients of variation for this figure are between 16.6% and 33.3%. Use with caution. These figures do not add to the total of 3.9% due to multiple responses.

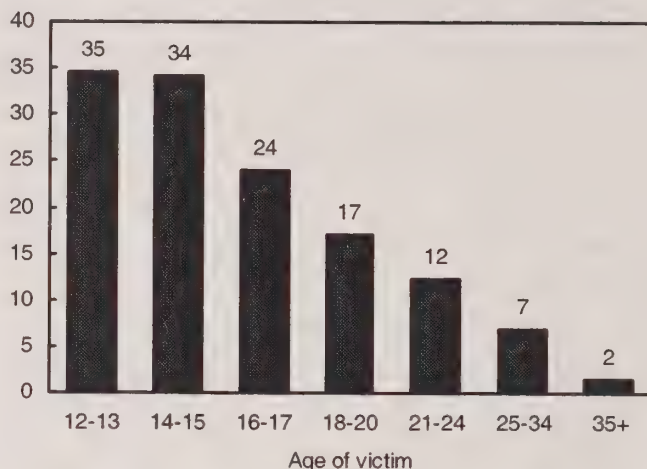
¹⁴ For further information on the topic of self-reported delinquency see Fitzgerald, R. (2003) An examination of sex differences in delinquency. Crime and Justice Research Paper Series.

¹⁵ According to Statistics Canada's 1993 Violence Against Women Survey, 16% of women 18 years of age and over (an estimated 1.7 million women) had been assaulted or sexually assaulted by a male dating partner since the age of 16. Twelve percent of women reported being sexually assaulted and 7% reported being physically assaulted (many women reported both).

Figure 7

Females under 16 years of age have highest rates of sexual violence by a dating partner/close friend, 2002

Rate per 100,000 population



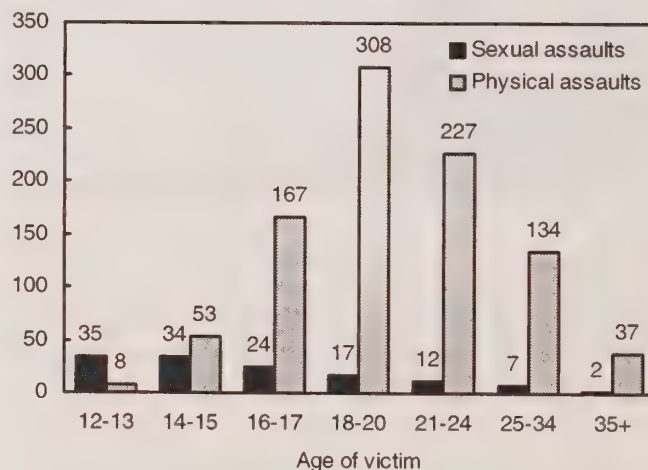
Data are based on 154 police agencies (excluding OPP Rural) participating in the UCR2 Survey, representing 56% of the national volume of reported crime. For the purpose of this analysis, dating partner was derived from the UCR2 category "close friends" and only opposite sex relationships with a single victim and single accused were included in order to exclude close non-intimate relationships. Males reported no sexual assaults in this relationship category in 2002.

Source: Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey (UCR2), Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

Figure 8

Young adult women have highest rates of physical assault by a dating partner/close friend, 2002

Rate per 100,000 population



Data are based on 154 police agencies (excluding OPP Rural) participating in the UCR2 Survey, representing 56% of the national volume of reported crime.

Source: Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey (UCR2), Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

Police statistics show that children are the least likely to fall prey to strangers (9%) and that the group most likely to be sexually assaulted by strangers was adult females (31%).

Most offences take place in a residence

The majority of sexual offences reported to police in 2002 took place in a residence (64%), followed by public and open areas (26%), and commercial places (11%).¹⁶ Sexual assault level 2 was least likely to take place in a residence (52% compared to 64% of sexual assault level 1, 65% of sexual assault level 3, and 65% of other sexual offences). Sexual assault level 2 was more likely to take place in a public or open area (38%), as compared to other sexual offences (27%), sexual assault level 1 (25%), and level 3 (23%).

Alcohol a factor

It is not uncommon for violent crimes to be committed within the context of alcohol or drug use by offenders and sometimes victims. Among adult victims of sexual assault responding to the 1999 GSS, 48% were of the opinion that the incident was related to the perpetrator's alcohol or drug use, similar to the percentage of assault and robbery victims who felt the same way (51% of both). The percentage of victims who felt that the incident was related to their own alcohol or drug use was considerably smaller for all victims of violence (less than 10%).¹⁷

CRIMINAL JUSTICE PROCESSING OF SEXUAL OFFENCES

Police response

Approximately one-in-six sexual offences reported to the police in 2002 were declared "unfounded" by the authorities meaning that after an initial investigation took place, police concluded that no violation of the law took place nor was attempted. Overall, 16% of sexual offences were unfounded, and the rate varied by type of offence: 16% of sexual assault level 1 cases, 11% of level 2 sexual assaults, 11% of level 3 sexual assaults, and 15% of other sexual offences.

Since 1991, the rate of unfounded offences has remained relatively stable for the three levels of sexual assault, but has increased fairly steadily for other sexual offences, from 8% in 1991 to 15% in 2002. Other types of violent crimes were unfounded by police in 7% of reported incidents between 1991 and 2002.

Sexual offences are also cleared by police at a lower rate than other types of violent offences. Of the 27,094 sexual offences declared "founded" by police in 2002, 44% were cleared by the laying of a charge against an accused person, an additional 19% were cleared otherwise, meaning an accused was identified but was not charged for a variety of reasons,¹⁸ and 37% were not cleared. Other types of violent offences were cleared by a charge in 50% of cases, while 22% were cleared otherwise and 28% were not cleared.

The clearance rate for sexual offences (including cleared through a charge being laid and cleared otherwise) has been decreasing since 1995. Between 1991 and 1995, the clearance rate ranged between 70% and 74%, but dropped to 63% in

2002. Among types of sexual offences, clearance rates in 2002 were highest in the most serious case of sexual assault level 3 (80%) and were lower for other sexual offences (63%) and sexual assault levels 1 and 2 (62% each). By comparison, the clearance rate for other violent offences stood at about 75% over the decade 1991 to 2002.

Response of Adult Criminal Courts

Convictions were more frequent in adult court cases involving sexual assault level 1 and other sexual offences than in sexual assault levels 2 and 3. However, conviction rates for sexual offences were lower as compared to other violent offences (Table 8).¹⁹ Conviction rates have risen for all types of sexual offences, but have remained steady for other violent offences since 1995/96. Sexual and non-sexual violent offences had similar proportions of cases stayed/withdrawn or acquitted.

Sexual offences with a finding of guilt were treated more harshly by adult court judges than were convictions for other types of violent offences (Table 9). The most common sentence given for all types of sexual offences in 2001/02 was a prison term, followed by probation or conditional sentence. Prison was given as a sentence more frequently in the case of sexual assault levels 2 and 3 than for level 1 or other sexual offences. Prison sentences have been used less frequently in recent years while the use of conditional sentences has risen.²⁰

By comparison, sentences for other types of violent offences in 2001/02 were probation in 49% of cases, prison in 36%, fines in 5% and conditional sentences in 4%. These percentages have remained stable in recent years.

Response of Youth Courts

In Youth Court, convictions were more frequent in cases involving level 1 sexual assault than other types of sexual offences. The 2001/02 figure of 61% is comparable to the conviction rate for other violent offences (62%). The percentages found guilty have remained relatively stable since 1994/95 in the case of all types of sexual offenders and other violent offenders (Table 10).

Similar to adults, the percentage of youth sentenced to open or secure custody was highest for convictions for sexual assault levels 2 and 3. The percentage sentenced to custody declined for sexual assault and was stable for other sexual offences. Unlike adult offenders, similar proportions of youth convicted

¹⁶ Public places include street, roads and open areas such as parks. Commercial places include office buildings, stores, bars, restaurants and other business locations.

¹⁷ The coefficient of variation for the estimates for sexual assault and robbery were between 16.6% and 33.3%. Use with caution.

¹⁸ These include cases where the complainant requests that charges not be laid against the accused, the accused has died, the accused has diplomatic immunity, the accused is referred to a diversionary program, police discretion, or for a reason beyond the control of the police.

¹⁹ Figures from the Adult Criminal Court Survey and the Youth Court Survey represent the most serious offence in the case and the most serious sentence.

²⁰ In 1996, the Sentencing Reform Bill (C-41) was enacted creating a new sentencing option for adult offenders, the conditional sentence of imprisonment, which is a term of imprisonment served in the community. Data on conditional sentences are not available for Quebec.

of sexual offences and those convicted of other violent offences were sentenced to a period of secure or open custody (Table 11).

Repeat Sex Offenders

In a recent study on recidivism linking youth and adult court records for a sample of 18 to 25 year olds convicted in adult court in 1999/00, the overall rate of repeat convictions was 60% (Thomas, Hurley and Grimes, 2002).²¹ This is the percentage of convicted offenders in that age group who had at least one previous conviction for any offence type in adult or youth court.

Among offence groups, property offenders were most likely to "specialize" as indicated by the fact that 50% had at least one prior conviction for property offences. Persons convicted of sexual offences were least likely to have had previous convictions within the same offence group. In 1999/00, only 11% of this sample of 18 to 25 year olds had been convicted previously of a sexual offence while 32% of other violent

offenders had at least one prior conviction within the same offence group (Table 12). Previous convictions fell within a different offence group for 40% of sexual offenders.

However, sexual offenders (particularly those charged with other sexual offences) appear before adult court with a higher percentage of multiple charges per case, indicating a higher tendency toward repeat offending prior to being reported to police. In 2001/02, 33% of persons appearing in Adult Criminal Court with sexual offences as the most serious charge had three or more charges (26% of those charged with sexual assault and 46% of those charged with other sexual offences) (Table 13).²² This is higher than for those convicted of other types of violent offences (27%) or property offences (27%). Eighteen percent of persons appearing before adult court charged with other sexual offences appeared with five or more charges compared with one-in-ten of those charged with other violent offences or property offences.

Multiple charge cases take more court time

Due in part to the fact that multiple charge cases take longer to resolve, the elapsed time from first appearance in adult court until sentencing, in cases with a finding of guilt, was a median of 226 days for sexual assaults and 259 days for other sexual offences. This was higher than for homicides (median of 166 days) or attempted murder (186), and almost twice as high as robbery or major assault (both 120 days), and more than twice as high as common assault (97 days).

Sexual Exploitation of Children through Prostitution

Sections 212(2) & (2.1) of the *Criminal Code* set out the indictable offences related to the exploitation of children through prostitution. The maximum penalty for living off the avails of prostitution of a person under the age of 18 is 14 years imprisonment. Compelling a person under 18 to engage in prostitution through the use of violence attracts a minimum penalty of five years imprisonment.

Section 212(4) makes it an offence to communicate for the purposes of obtaining the sexual services of a person under the age of 18. The maximum penalty for this indictable offence is five years imprisonment.

Some provinces such as Alberta, Saskatchewan and Ontario have enacted their own legislation to protect children from prostitution.

The Alberta legislation, *Protection of Children Involved in Prostitution Act*, passed in March 2001, toughened existing laws allowing for the detention of youths suspected of engaging in prostitution whose safety is at risk, but who will not voluntarily end their involvement in prostitution. Youths suspected of engaging in prostitution are detained in protective confinement for a 5-day assessment where they receive emergency care and treatment. The act also permits authorities to apply for a maximum two additional detainment periods up to 21 days each. The additional time is aimed at helping the child stabilize, break the cycle of abuse and begin the recovery process.

The Saskatchewan legislation, the *Emergency Protection for Victims of Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation Act*, was proclaimed in force on October 1, 2002. The Act allows police, child protection staff and other designated persons to apply, on an emergency basis, to a Justice of the Peace for an Emergency Protection Intervention Order. These orders are directed at those who place a child under 18 years of age at risk of sexual exploitation, and can contain conditions prohibiting contact with the child and keeping the person from entering areas where street prostitution is taking place. It also expands police search powers in cases of child sexual abuse. It is an offence under section 127 of the *Criminal Code* to breach an order. As well an *Act to Amend the Highway Traffic Act* was proclaimed in force on April 1, 2002, permitting police to seize vehicles used in the commission of a prostitution offence, and the province to suspend the licenses of those convicted of offences, including offences involving children. A second set of amendments to the *Highway Traffic Act* was proclaimed in force on October 1, 2002, creating an offence of repeatedly driving or parking a vehicle, without lawful excuse, in an area that is frequented by sex trade workers.

The province of Ontario has passed, but not yet proclaimed the *Rescuing Children from Sexual Exploitation Act*. The Act will permit police and child welfare workers to assist children who are being exploited by street prostitution. The legislation also allows them to enter a range of locations where commercial sexual victimization of children occurs and to remove a child under 18 and to sue pimps to recover the costs of treatment and services required by victims.

Child Pornography

Laws prohibiting the possession, production and distribution of child pornography have been in place in Canada since 1993 (see *Developments in Sexual Offences and related Legislation: A chronology*, p. 11). Between 1997 and 2002, police laid charges against 226 men and 11 women for production or distribution of child pornography.

Sex Offender Registry

The Solicitor General introduced legislation in December, 2002 to implement a national sex offender registry. The system will require anyone convicted of a sexual offence to provide police with up-to-date addresses, telephone numbers, aliases and identifying marks. This information will be entered in a new sex offender database on the Canadian Police Information Centre (CPIC) system maintained by the RCMP. It is designed to aid police in solving sex-related crime by identifying possible suspects known to live near the site of an offence.

Cybertip.ca

Cybertip.ca is an internet tip line operated by Child Find Manitoba and funded in part by the federal government that is designed to receive and respond to reports from the public regarding the online sexual exploitation of children, including child pornography, luring, child sex-tourism, and the prostitution of children. Cybertip.ca helps prevent the sexual exploitation of children by bridging the gap between individuals who want to report online victimization and the law enforcement agencies who conduct the investigations, as well as by providing information and referral services to the public. This service is available through the web site www.cybertip.ca and toll-free 1-866-658-9022.

²¹ Prior convictions for recidivists are not necessarily of the same offence type as the current conviction. Analysis was limited to this age group because of limited time series data available from the Adult Criminal Court Survey.

²² The other charges are not necessarily sexual offences.

Trafficking in persons for sexual exploitation

Trafficking in human beings for sexual exploitation has become a worldwide phenomenon, considered by the United Nations to be one of the fastest-growing illicit activities in the world. According to the International Organization for Migration, as many as 2 million women and children were trafficked across international borders in 2001 (www.undp.org/unifem).

The United Nations defines the commercial sexual exploitation of children as the use of a child for sexual purposes in exchange for cash or favours between the customer, intermediary or agent and those who profit from the trade in children for these purposes.

In May 2002, Canada ratified the UN *Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children*, supplementing the UN *Convention against Transnational Organized Crime*, which commits state parties to take measures to criminalize and prevent trafficking and protect trafficking victims. On June 28, 2002, a new trafficking in persons offence came into force in Canadian immigration law. The offence, section 118 of the new *Immigration and Refugee Protection Act*, provides for very severe penalties: fines of up to \$1 million and imprisonment for up to life. Moreover, it lists specific aggravating factors that a court can take into account when determining the appropriate penalty, such as subjecting the victim to sexual exploitation.

The *Optional Protocol to the Convention of the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography* (signed by Canada in November, 2001) requires state parties to prohibit the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography and take measures to enhance international co-operation, seize and confiscate goods used in these offences, develop public awareness measures and introduce measure to rehabilitate child victims.

DEVELOPMENTS IN SEXUAL OFFENCES AND RELATED LEGISLATION: A CHRONOLOGY

- 1983** In Bill C-127, the crimes of rape and indecent assault were replaced by a three-tier structure of sexual offences, now sections 271, 272 and 273 of the *Criminal Code*. The aim of the new structure was to reduce the stigma associated with reporting sexual assault by focusing on the violent rather than the sexual nature of the offence, as well as to create a gender-neutral definition. The new legislation also eliminated spousal immunity and restricted the admissibility of evidence about the complainant's prior sexual history.
- 1987** In the case of *R. v. Chase*, [1987] 2 S.C.R. 293, the Supreme Court of Canada provided a definition of sexual assault. The court ruled that sexual assault does not focus solely on the part of the body part touched. It also deals with the nature of the contact, the situation in which it occurred, the words and gestures accompanying the act, and all other circumstances surrounding the conduct, including threats, which may or may not be accompanied by force.
- 1988** Although the sexual assault legislation outlined in Bill C-127 applies to victims of all ages, Bill C-15 created several new offences to deal specifically with incidents of sexual abuse involving victims under the age of 18. The offences included sexual interference, invitation to

sexual touching, sexual exploitation of persons between 14 and 18 years by persons in a position of trust or authority, and exposure of genitals for a sexual purpose to a person under 14 (see *Sexual Offences Defined*). Bill C-15 also included measures to improve the treatment and experience of sexual assault complainants under 18 by allowing them to testify outside of court or behind screens and allowing the use of their videotaped testimony in certain cases.

- 1991** In *R. v. Seaboyer*, [1991] 2 S.C.R. 577, the Supreme Court of Canada struck down provisions of the 1983 sexual assault legislation that prevented a defendant from introducing evidence regarding the complainant's sexual history (sections 276 and 277 of the *Criminal Code*).
- 1992** Subsequent to this decision, new "rape shield" legislation, Bill C-49 provided a test to determine whether evidence of a complainant's sexual activity could be admitted at trial, and in addition, provided a definition of consent for the purpose of the sexual assault provisions. It also restricted the circumstances under which accused persons could say they "mistakenly believed" the victim was consenting. The law clearly set out that the defence of mistaken belief could not be used if the belief stemmed from the accused's drunkenness, recklessness, or willful blindness, or if the accused did not take reasonable steps to determine whether the victim was, in fact, consenting.
- 1993** Bill C-126 authorized courts to order specific prohibitions for convicted sex offenders, and resulted in changes to protective orders and other administrative processes involved in sexual assault cases involving children. Examples include ordering convicted sex offenders to stay away from parks and schools and prohibiting them from working in positions of trust with children. A judge can also prohibit accused sex offenders from personally cross-examining child victims.
- 1993** Bill C-128 introduced child pornography legislation, s.163.1 of the *Criminal Code*, which made it an offence to make, print, publish, import, distribute, sell, or possess for the purpose of publication, sale or distribution, any child pornography. Simple possession is also prohibited. This also covers such offences occurring through the use of the Internet.
- 1995** In *R. v. O'Connor*, [1995] 4 S.C.R. 411, the Supreme Court of Canada ruled that counselling or other personal records of sexual assault victims could be ordered to be produced for the accused's defence in criminal court proceedings.
- 1997** Following the *O'Connor* decision, Parliament proclaimed into force Bill C-46, which set out the circumstances under which records could be produced to the accused.
- 1997** Bill C-27 included provisions to facilitate the testimony of young victims and witnesses of sexual offences, to strengthen penalties for those who exploit youth involved in prostitution, and to clarify that female genital mutilation

is a crime. In addition, the Bill allowed Canadian officials to prosecute Canadian citizens and permanent residents who commit sexual offences against children in foreign countries.

- 1999** Bill C-51 contained an amendment to the *Criminal Code* to make it an offence to communicate for the purposes of obtaining a child prostitute, thus allowing police decoys to be used in laying charges.
- 1999** In *R. v. Mills*, [1999] 3 S.C.R. 668, the Supreme Court of Canada upheld the constitutionality of Bill C-46 to govern production of records to the accused.
- 2000** In *R. v. Darrach*, [2000] 2 S.C.R. 443, the Supreme Court of Canada upheld the constitutional validity of the "rape shield" legislation (Bill C-49).
- 2000** Bill C-7 provided amendments to the *Criminal Records Act* to enhance the ability of police to thoroughly explore the criminal background of persons seeking to work with children, including the criminal records for designated sex offences where a pardon has been granted.
- 2001** In *R. v. Sharpe*, [2001] 1 S.C.R. 45, the Supreme Court of Canada upheld the constitutionality of the possession of child pornography offence under s. 163.1(3) of the *Criminal Code*. The court, however, held that "child pornography" should be read as though it created an exception for (1) written or visual works of the imagination created by the accused (such as personal journals and drawings) and held for personal use only; and (2) visual recordings created by or depicting the accused that do not depict unlawful sexual activity and that are held by the accused for personal use only. The Court also held that the defences, such as artistic merit, should be interpreted liberally to avoid violating the right to freedom of expression.
- 2002** Bill C-15A included new offences and amendments to existing legislation regarding the sexual exploitation of children through the Internet and child sex tourism. Offences include: knowingly accessing child pornography sites, making child pornography available on the Internet (including web sites that have links to child pornography sites), and possession for the purposes of transmitting or exporting child pornography over the Internet, and luring children over the Internet for the purpose of sexual exploitation. This legislation also included an amendment to facilitate the prosecution of Canadian citizens and permanent residents who commit sexual offences against children in foreign countries. Also, the new Immigration and Refugee Protection Act includes a specific offence of trafficking in people (s.118).
- 2002** Bill C-20, which was introduced into the House of Commons December 5, 2002, aims to strengthen child pornography provisions of the *Criminal Code* by restricting defences to a single defence of "public good" and expanding the definition of written child pornography. The Bill also creates a new category of sexual exploitation that protects young persons between 14 and

18 years of age; increases maximum sentences for child-related offences (sexual offences, failure to provide the necessities of life, and child abandonment); introduces measures to facilitate the testimony of child victims and witnesses; and, introduces a new offence of voyeurism.

METHODOLOGY

Uniform Crime Reporting Survey

The Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Survey was developed by Statistics Canada with the co-operation and assistance of the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police. The survey, which became operational in 1962, collects crime and traffic statistics reported by all police agencies in Canada. UCR survey data reflect reported crime that has been substantiated through police investigation.

This is an aggregate survey that classifies incidents according to the most serious offence in the incident (generally the offence that carries the longest maximum sentence under the *Criminal Code*). As a result, less serious offences are under-represented by the UCR survey. In the case of violent crime, a separate incident is recorded for each victim. The exception is robbery for which one incident is counted for every distinct or separate occurrence (in order to avoid inflating the number of robberies in cases with large numbers of victims, eg. a bank robbery). In the case of non-violent crimes, one incident (categorized according to the most serious offence) is counted for every distinct occurrence.

The incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR2) survey captures detailed information on individual criminal incidents reported to police, including characteristics of victims, accused persons and incidents. In 2001, detailed data were collected through the UCR2 survey from 154 police services in 9 provinces. These data represent 59% of the national volume of reported actual *Criminal Code* incidents. Other than Ontario and Québec, the data are primarily from urban police departments. The reader is cautioned that these data are not geographically representative at the national or provincial level.

The UCR2 Trend Database contains historical data, which permits the analysis of trends in the characteristics of incidents, accused and victims, such as weapon use and victim/accused relationship. This database currently includes 104 police services who have reported to the UCR2 survey constantly since 1995. These police services accounted for 42% of the national volume of crime in 2001.

Homicide Survey

The Homicide Survey began collecting detailed data provided by police on homicide incidents, victims and accused persons in 1974. Summary counts are available back to 1961. Whenever a homicide (murder, manslaughter or infanticide) becomes known to the police, the investigating police department completes a survey questionnaire which is then forwarded to the Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics. This questionnaire remained virtually unchanged from 1974 to 1990. In 1991 and later in 1997, in an effort to respond to changing information needs, the survey was revised and expanded. Every effort is

made to count homicides in the year in which they occurred. However, in some circumstances, homicides are counted in the year in which they were known to police, which may not be the year in which they actually occurred.

General Social Survey on Victimization

The General Social Survey (GSS) is an annual survey that monitors changes in Canadian society and provides information on specific policy issues of current or emerging interest. Each year, the GSS has a particular focus. In 1988, 1993 and 1999, the focus of the GSS was on crime and victimization.

In 1999, approximately 26,000 Canadians aged 15 years and older residing in households were interviewed by telephone about their experiences of victimization. As with previous cycles, the response rate was quite high – 81.3%. Responses were weighted to represent the approximately 24.3 million non-institutionalized persons 15 years of age and older in the Canadian population. Given this sample size, an estimate of a proportion of the population, expressed as a percentage, is expected to be within approximately 0.8% of the true proportion 19 times out of 20. Estimates for sub-samples of the population will have wider confidence intervals.

Adult Criminal Court Survey

The Adult Criminal Court Survey (ACCS) provides statistical information on the processing of cases through provincial/territorial adult criminal court systems. Coverage in 2001/02 stood at 90% of all adult criminal court cases. One province and two territories (Manitoba, Nunavut, and N.W.T) are not included in the survey at this time. British Columbia and New Brunswick began participating in 2001/02 and have been excluded from the trend analysis.

Some court locations in Québec are not included. Information from Québec's 140 municipal courts (which account for approximately 20% of federal statute charges in that province) are not yet collected. Superior Court data from British Columbia, Alberta, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island and Yukon are also included.

A case is defined in the ACCS as one or more charges against an accused person or corporation that receive a final decision on the same day. Charges in each case are ranked according to the type of final decision and the charge with the most serious decision is used to represent the case.

Youth Court Survey

The Youth Court Survey (YCS) is a census of cases heard in youth court for persons aged 12-17 at the time of the offences.

Though every effort is made by respondents and the Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics to ensure complete survey coverage, slight under-coverage may occur in some jurisdictions. A case is defined by the YCS as one or more charges laid against a young person that is completed in youth court on the same day. Charges in each case are ranked according to the type of final decision and the charge with the most serious decision is used to represent the case.

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Table 1

Sexual offences reported to police, Canada, 1983-2002

| Year | Population | Total Sexual Offences | | Total Sexual Assault | | Sexual assault level 1 | | Sexual assault level 2 | | Sexual assault level 3 | | Other sexual offences | |
|--------------------|------------|-----------------------|-------------------|----------------------|-------------------|------------------------|-------------------|------------------------|-------------------|------------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|
| | | Number | Rate ¹ | Number | Rate ¹ | Number | Rate ¹ | Number | Rate ¹ | Number | Rate ¹ | Number | Rate ¹ |
| 1983 | 25,366,965 | 14,872 | 59 | 11,932 | 47 | 10,542 | 42 | 840 | 3.3 | 550 | 2.2 | 2,940 | 11.6 |
| 1984 | 25,607,555 | 18,535 | 72 | 14,793 | 58 | 13,472 | 53 | 795 | 3.1 | 526 | 2.1 | 3,742 | 14.6 |
| 1985 | 25,842,590 | 21,467 | 83 | 18,248 | 71 | 16,990 | 66 | 805 | 3.1 | 453 | 1.8 | 3,219 | 12.5 |
| 1986 | 26,100,587 | 23,533 | 90 | 20,530 | 79 | 19,191 | 74 | 910 | 3.5 | 429 | 1.6 | 3,003 | 11.5 |
| 1987 | 26,449,888 | 25,008 | 95 | 22,369 | 85 | 21,021 | 79 | 936 | 3.5 | 412 | 1.6 | 2,639 | 10.0 |
| 1988 | 26,798,303 | 28,048 | 105 | 24,898 | 93 | 23,564 | 88 | 961 | 3.6 | 373 | 1.4 | 3,150 | 11.8 |
| 1989 | 27,286,239 | 30,364 | 111 | 26,795 | 98 | 25,551 | 94 | 856 | 3.1 | 388 | 1.4 | 3,569 | 13.1 |
| 1990 | 27,700,856 | 31,456 | 114 | 27,843 | 101 | 26,540 | 96 | 918 | 3.3 | 385 | 1.4 | 3,613 | 13.0 |
| 1991 | 28,030,864 | 34,282 | 122 | 30,351 | 108 | 28,916 | 103 | 971 | 3.5 | 464 | 1.7 | 3,931 | 14.0 |
| 1992 | 28,376,550 | 38,395 | 135 | 34,355 | 121 | 33,022 | 116 | 935 | 3.3 | 398 | 1.4 | 4,040 | 14.2 |
| 1993 | 28,703,142 | 38,925 | 136 | 34,754 | 121 | 33,536 | 117 | 860 | 3.0 | 358 | 1.2 | 4,171 | 14.5 |
| 1994 | 29,035,981 | 35,524 | 122 | 31,706 | 109 | 30,572 | 105 | 769 | 2.6 | 365 | 1.3 | 3,818 | 13.1 |
| 1995 | 29,353,854 | 31,728 | 108 | 28,234 | 96 | 27,278 | 93 | 659 | 2.2 | 297 | 1.0 | 3,494 | 11.9 |
| 1996 | 29,671,892 | 30,369 | 102 | 27,026 | 91 | 26,076 | 88 | 653 | 2.2 | 297 | 1.0 | 3,343 | 11.3 |
| 1997 | 29,987,214 | 30,663 | 102 | 27,013 | 90 | 26,142 | 87 | 602 | 2.0 | 269 | 0.9 | 3,650 | 12.2 |
| 1998 | 30,248,412 | 28,998 | 96 | 25,553 | 84 | 24,805 | 82 | 529 | 1.7 | 219 | 0.7 | 3,445 | 11.4 |
| 1999 | 30,509,323 | 27,159 | 89 | 23,859 | 78 | 23,185 | 76 | 461 | 1.5 | 213 | 0.7 | 3,300 | 10.8 |
| 2000 | 30,790,834 | 27,115 | 88 | 24,001 | 78 | 23,428 | 76 | 391 | 1.3 | 182 | 0.6 | 3,114 | 10.1 |
| 2001 | 31,110,565 | 26,733 | 86 | 24,044 | 77 | 23,563 | 76 | 320 | 1.0 | 161 | 0.5 | 2,689 | 8.6 |
| 2002 | 31,413,990 | 27,094 | 86 | 24,350 | 78 | 23,813 | 76 | 381 | 1.2 | 156 | 0.5 | 2,744 | 8.7 |
| % change 1993-2002 | | -30 | -36 | -30 | -36 | -29 | -35 | -56 | -60 | -56 | -60 | -34 | -40 |
| % change 1983-2002 | | 82 | 47 | 104 | 65 | 126 | 82 | -55 | -63 | -72 | -77 | -7 | -25 |

¹ Rates are calculated based on 100,000 population. The population estimates are provided by Statistics Canada, Census and Demography Statistics, Demography Division. Populations as of July 1st: Revised intercensal estimates, adjusted for net undercoverage for 1983 to 1990; final intercensal estimates for 1991 to 1995; final postcensal estimates for 1996 to 1999; updated postcensal estimates for 2000 and 2001, and; preliminary postcensal estimates for 2002.

Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

Table 2

Police reported sexual offences by province and territory, 1991-2002

| | 1991 | 1992 | 1993 | 1994 | 1995 | 1996 | 1997 | 1998 | 1999 | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 |
|--|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| Newfoundland and Labrador | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Number | 1,230 | 1,368 | 1,353 | 1,113 | 957 | 842 | 902 | 664 | 600 | 599 | 650 | 584 |
| Rate ¹ | 212 | 235 | 233 | 194 | 169 | 150 | 163 | 122 | 111 | 112 | 122 | 110 |
| % rate change | | 11 | -1 | -17 | -13 | -11 | 9 | -25 | -9 | 1 | 9 | -10 |
| Prince Edward Island | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Number | 176 | 205 | 160 | 195 | 174 | 172 | 155 | 170 | 116 | 112 | 120 | 162 |
| Rate ¹ | 135 | 157 | 121 | 145 | 129 | 127 | 113 | 124 | 84 | 81 | 86 | 116 |
| % rate change | | 16 | -23 | 20 | -11 | -2 | -11 | 10 | -32 | -4 | 7 | 34 |
| Nova Scotia | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Number | 1,182 | 1,453 | 1,479 | 1,361 | 1,309 | 1,218 | 1,264 | 1,023 | 947 | 823 | 912 | 948 |
| Rate ¹ | 129 | 158 | 160 | 147 | 141 | 131 | 135 | 109 | 101 | 87 | 97 | 100 |
| % rate change | | 22 | 1 | -8 | -4 | -7 | 3 | -19 | -7 | -14 | 11 | 4 |
| New Brunswick | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Number | 1,098 | 1,286 | 1,352 | 1,252 | 1,249 | 1,057 | 989 | 955 | 878 | 826 | 953 | 851 |
| Rate ¹ | 147 | 172 | 181 | 167 | 166 | 140 | 131 | 127 | 116 | 109 | 126 | 112 |
| % rate change | | 17 | 5 | -8 | -1 | -16 | -6 | -3 | -9 | -6 | 16 | -11 |
| Quebec | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Number | 4,674 | 5,266 | 4,975 | 4,648 | 4,248 | 4,291 | 4,214 | 4,252 | 4,503 | 4,507 | 4,601 | 5,274 |
| Rate ¹ | 66 | 74 | 70 | 65 | 59 | 59 | 58 | 58 | 61 | 61 | 62 | 71 |
| % rate change | | 12 | -5 | -7 | -9 | 0 | -2 | 0 | 5 | 0 | 2 | 14 |
| Ontario | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Number | 11,963 | 12,870 | 13,731 | 12,631 | 10,889 | 10,320 | 10,158 | 9,942 | 9,157 | 9,840 | 9,078 | 8,877 |
| Rate ¹ | 115 | 121 | 128 | 116 | 99 | 93 | 90 | 87 | 79 | 84 | 76 | 74 |
| % rate change | | 5 | 6 | -9 | -15 | -6 | -3 | -3 | -9 | 6 | -9 | -4 |
| Manitoba | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Number | 1,999 | 2,543 | 2,425 | 2,095 | 1,776 | 1,887 | 1,826 | 1,607 | 1,572 | 1,462 | 1,460 | 1,602 |
| Rate ¹ | 180 | 228 | 217 | 186 | 157 | 166 | 161 | 141 | 138 | 127 | 127 | 139 |
| % rate change | | 27 | -5 | -14 | -16 | 6 | -3 | -12 | -2 | -8 | 0 | 10 |
| Saskatchewan | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Number | 1,774 | 1,992 | 1,917 | 1,770 | 1,721 | 1,601 | 1,866 | 1,672 | 1,525 | 1,650 | 1,571 | 1,618 |
| Rate ¹ | 177 | 198 | 191 | 175 | 170 | 157 | 182 | 163 | 149 | 162 | 154 | 160 |
| % rate change | | 12 | -4 | -8 | -3 | -8 | 16 | -10 | -9 | 9 | -5 | 4 |
| Alberta | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Number | 4,136 | 4,415 | 4,272 | 3,868 | 3,434 | 3,330 | 3,341 | 3,212 | 2,936 | 2,711 | 2,854 | 2,806 |
| Rate ¹ | 160 | 168 | 160 | 143 | 125 | 120 | 118 | 110 | 99 | 90 | 93 | 90 |
| % rate change | | 5 | -5 | -11 | -13 | -4 | -2 | -7 | -10 | -9 | 4 | -3 |
| British Columbia | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Number | 5,451 | 6,348 | 6,494 | 5,866 | 5,382 | 5,098 | 5,176 | 4,911 | 4,402 | 4,075 | 4,059 | 3,776 |
| Rate ¹ | 161 | 183 | 182 | 160 | 143 | 132 | 131 | 123 | 109 | 100 | 99 | 91 |
| % rate change | | 14 | -1 | -12 | -11 | -8 | -1 | -6 | -11 | -8 | -1 | -8 |
| Yukon | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Number | 120 | 107 | 135 | 108 | 133 | 93 | 133 | 111 | 94 | 98 | 80 | 108 |
| Rate ¹ | 415 | 354 | 441 | 359 | 431 | 292 | 412 | 352 | 303 | 320 | 265 | 361 |
| % rate change | | -15 | 25 | -19 | 20 | -32 | 41 | -15 | -14 | 6 | -17 | 36 |
| Northwest Territories² | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Number | 474 | 542 | 632 | 617 | 456 | 460 | 639 | 479 | 213 | 189 | 154 | 196 |
| Rate ¹ | 778 | 869 | 994 | 947 | 685 | 681 | 943 | 710 | 520 | 463 | 374 | 473 |
| % rate change | | 12 | 14 | -5 | -28 | -1 | 39 | -25 | -27 | -11 | -19 | 27 |
| Nunavut² | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Number | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 216 | 223 | 241 | 292 |
| Rate ¹ | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 804 | 811 | 857 | 1,017 |
| % rate change | | | | | | | | | | 1 | 6 | 19 |
| Canada | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Number | 34,282 | 38,395 | 38,925 | 35,524 | 31,728 | 30,369 | 30,663 | 28,998 | 27,159 | 27,115 | 26,733 | 27,094 |
| Rate | 122 | 135 | 136 | 122 | 108 | 102 | 102 | 96 | 89 | 88 | 86 | 86 |
| % rate change | | 11 | 1 | -10 | -11 | -6 | 0 | -6 | -7 | -1 | -2 | 0 |

¹ The population estimates used to calculate rates are provided by Statistics Canada, Census and Demography Statistics, Demography Division. Populations as of July 1st: final intercensal estimates for 1991 to 1995; final postcensal estimates for 1996 to 1999; updated postcensal estimates for 2000 and 2001, and; preliminary postcensal estimates for 2002.

² In 1999, Nunavut, which comprises the eastern part of the old Northwest Territories, officially became a Canadian territory. Data for 1999 onward for the Northwest Territories cannot be compared to data prior to 1999.

Note: Includes sexual assault levels 1, 2 and 3 and other sexual offences.

Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

Table 3

Homicides precipitated by sexual offences, 1991-2001

| | Number | Percent |
|---------------------------|------------|-----------|
| Accused identified | 163 | 89 |
| Not cleared | 21 | 11 |
| Total | 184 | 100 |
| Sex of accused | | |
| Male | 159 | 98 |
| Female | 4 | 2 |
| Total | 163 | 100 |
| Age of accused | | |
| <25 | 52 | 32 |
| 25 and over | 111 | 68 |
| Total | 163 | 100 |
| Sex of victim | | |
| Male | 33 | 18 |
| Female | 151 | 82 |
| Total | 184 | 100 |
| Age of victim | | |
| <15 | 25 | 14 |
| 15-24 | 61 | 33 |
| 25 and over | 98 | 53 |
| Total | 184 | 100 |

Source: Homicide Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

Table 4



Reasons for not reporting violent crimes to the police, 1999

| Reasons for not reporting | Sexual assault | | Robbery | | Assault | |
|---|----------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| | No. (000s) | % | No. (000s) | % | No. (000s) | % |
| Total incidents not reported to police | 391 | 100 | 116 | 100 | 754 | 100 |
| Dealt with in another way | | | | | | |
| Yes | 237 | 61 | 56 | 49 | 432 | 57 |
| No | 153 | 39 | 60 | 51 | 320 | 42 |
| Don't know/Not stated | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Not important enough | | | | | | |
| Yes | 195 | 50 | 48 | 41 | 392 | 52 |
| No | 194 | 50 | 69 | 59 | 361 | 48 |
| Don't know/Not stated | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Personal matter and did not concern the police | | | | | | |
| Yes | 194 | 50 | 44 | 38 | 226 | 30 |
| No | 195 | 50 | 72 | 62 | 527 | 70 |
| Don't know/Not stated | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Did not want to get involved with the police | | | | | | |
| Yes | 182 | 47 | 58 | 50 | 268 | 36 |
| No | 207 | 53 | 59 | 50 | 484 | 64 |
| Don't know/Not stated | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Police couldn't do anything about it | | | | | | |
| Yes | 130 | 33 | 55 | 48 | 244 | 32 |
| No | 260 | 66 | 61 | 52 | 509 | 68 |
| Don't know/Not stated | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Fear of revenge | | | | | | |
| Yes | 73 | 19 | 32 | 27 | 74 | 10 |
| No | 317 | 73 | 85 | 73 | 678 | 90 |
| Don't know/Not stated | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Police wouldn't help | | | | | | |
| Yes | 70 | 18 | 15 | 6 | 127 | 17 |
| No | 319 | 82 | 102 | 87 | 625 | 83 |
| Don't know/Not stated | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Fear of publicity/news coverage | | | | | | |
| Yes | 56 | 14 | 9 | 8 | 29 | 4 |
| No | 333 | 85 | 108 | 92 | 723 | 96 |
| Don't know/Not stated | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Other reason | | | | | | |
| Yes | 36 | 9 | 8 | 7 | 58 | 8 |
| No | 355 | 91 | 109 | 93 | 695 | 92 |
| Don't know/Not stated | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

Figures may not add to totals due to rounding.

Source: 1999 General Social Survey, Statistics Canada.

Table 5



Percent of victims of violence who sought support, 1999

| Source of support | Sexual assault | | Robbery | | Assault | |
|-------------------|----------------|----|------------|----|-----------------|----------------|
| | No. (000s) | % | No. (000s) | % | No. (000s) | % |
| Family | 207 | 42 | 172 | 76 | 844 | 68 |
| Friend/neighbour | 302 | 61 | 191 | 84 | 928 | 74 |
| Co-worker | 132 | 26 | 94 | 41 | 649 | 52 |
| Doctor/nurse | F | F | F | F | 118 | 9 |
| Lawyer | F | F | F | F | 72 ^E | 6 ^E |

^E use with caution

F too unreliable to be published

Source: 1999 General Social Survey, Statistics Canada.

Table 6



Rates of sexual assault by victim characteristics, 1999¹

| Victim characteristics | Number (000s) | Rate per 1,000 population 15+ |
|---|-----------------|-------------------------------|
| Total | 502 | 21 |
| Sex | | |
| Females | 410 | 33 |
| Males | 92 | 8 |
| Age group | | |
| 15-24 | 248 | 61 |
| 25-34 | 126 | 28 |
| 35-44 | 74 ^E | 14 ^E |
| 45-54 | 43 ^E | 10 ^E |
| 55-64 | 0 | 0 |
| 65 + | 0 | 0 |
| Marital status | | |
| Married | 78 ^E | 6 ^E |
| Common law | 0 | 0 |
| Single | 291 | 48 |
| Widow or widower | 0 | 0 |
| Separated or divorced | 68 ^E | 43 ^E |
| Don't know/Not stated | 0 | 0 |
| Main activity | | |
| Working at a job | 235 | 18 |
| Looking for work | 0 | 0 |
| A student | 145 | 49 |
| Household work ² | 58 ^E | 28 ^E |
| Retired | 0 | 0 |
| Other ³ | 0 | 0 |
| Don't know/Not stated | 0 | 0 |
| Evening activities (# per month) | | |
| Less than 10 | 42 ^E | 8 ^E |
| 10 - 19 | 61 ^E | 12 ^E |
| 20 - 29 | 92 | 19 |
| 30 + | 307 | 37 |
| Don't know/Not stated | 0 | 0 |
| Household income (\$) | | |
| 0-14,999 | 61 ^E | 43 ^E |
| 15,000-29,999 | 70 ^E | 24 ^E |
| 30,000-39,999 | 46 ^E | 20 ^E |
| 40,000-59,999 | 82 ^E | 20 ^E |
| 60,000 + | 92 | 14 |
| Don't know/Not stated | 151 | |
| Location of home | | |
| Urban | 409 | 21 |
| Rural | 94 | 18 |

^E use with caution

¹ Includes all incidents of spousal sexual and physical assault.

² Includes taking care of children and maternity/paternity leave.

³ Includes long-term illness and volunteering.

Source: 1999 General Social Survey, Statistics Canada.

Table 7

Victim-accused relationship by age and sex of victims, 2002

| Relationship of accused to victim | Age and sex of victim | | | | | | | | | |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------|------------|--------------|------------|--------------|------------|--------------|------------|--------|---|
| | Children <12 | | | | | | | | | |
| | Total victims | | Female | | Male | | Total | | | |
| | Number | % | Number | % | Number | % | Number | % | Number | % |
| Family (total) | 4,025 | 28 | 1,432 | 51 | 530 | 46 | 1,962 | 49 | | |
| Spouse/ex-spouse | 555 | 4 | | 0 | | 0 | 0 | 0 | | |
| Parent | 1,439 | 10 | 606 | 21 | 195 | 17 | 801 | 20 | | |
| Other family | 2,031 | 14 | 826 | 29 | 335 | 29 | 1,161 | 29 | | |
| Close friend ¹ | 1,481 | 10 | 172 | 6 | 95 | 8 | 267 | 7 | | |
| Acquaintance | 5,842 | 41 | 977 | 35 | 418 | 37 | 1,395 | 35 | | |
| Stranger | 2,921 | 20 | 243 | 9 | 97 | 9 | 340 | 9 | | |
| Total | 14,269 | 100 | 2,824 | 100 | 1,140 | 100 | 3,964 | 100 | | |

| | Age and sex of victim | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---------------------------|-----------------------|------------|------------|------------|--------------|------------|--------------|------------|------------|------------|--------------|------------|
| | Youths 12-17 | | | | | | Adults 18+ | | | | | |
| | Female | | Male | | Total | | Female | | Male | | Total | |
| | Number | % | Number | % | Number | % | Number | % | Number | % | Number | % |
| Family (total) | 985 | 23 | 132 | 23 | 1,117 | 23 | 882 | 17 | 64 | 15 | 946 | 17 |
| Spouse/ex-spouse | 34 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 35 | 1 | 513 | 10 | 7 | 2 | 520 | 9 |
| Parent | 454 | 11 | 41 | 7 | 495 | 10 | 125 | 2 | 18 | 4 | 143 | 3 |
| Other family | 497 | 12 | 90 | 16 | 587 | 12 | 244 | 5 | 39 | 9 | 283 | 5 |
| Close friend ¹ | 478 | 11 | 61 | 11 | 539 | 11 | 630 | 12 | 45 | 10 | 675 | 12 |
| Acquaintance | 1,942 | 46 | 297 | 53 | 2,239 | 47 | 1,984 | 39 | 224 | 52 | 2,208 | 40 |
| Stranger | 809 | 19 | 75 | 13 | 884 | 18 | 1,596 | 31 | 101 | 23 | 1,697 | 31 |
| Total | 4,214 | 100 | 565 | 100 | 4,779 | 100 | 5,092 | 100 | 434 | 100 | 5,526 | 100 |

¹ Close friend is defined as long-term and/or close (or intimate) relationship to the victim. It also includes ex-friends.

Source: Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey (UCR2), Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

Table 8



Decisions in Adult Criminal Court for cases involving sexual offences and other violent offences, 1994/95 to 2001/02²

| | | Total | | Guilty | | Acquitted | | Stay/Withdrawn | | Other ¹ | |
|--------------------------|---------|---------|-----|--------|----|-----------|---|----------------|----|--------------------|----|
| | | Number | % | Number | % | Number | % | Number | % | Number | % |
| Sexual assault (level 1) | 1994/95 | 4,469 | 100 | 1,495 | 33 | 170 | 4 | 1,644 | 37 | 1,160 | 26 |
| | 1995/96 | 4,247 | 100 | 1,566 | 37 | 235 | 6 | 1,528 | 36 | 918 | 22 |
| | 1996/97 | 3,900 | 100 | 1,650 | 42 | 183 | 5 | 1,435 | 37 | 632 | 16 |
| | 1997/98 | 4,137 | 100 | 1,671 | 40 | 199 | 5 | 1,596 | 39 | 671 | 16 |
| | 1998/99 | 4,033 | 100 | 1,718 | 43 | 277 | 7 | 1,570 | 39 | 468 | 12 |
| | 1999/00 | 3,629 | 100 | 1,668 | 46 | 198 | 5 | 1,332 | 37 | 431 | 12 |
| | 2000/01 | 3,279 | 100 | 1,444 | 44 | 217 | 7 | 1,245 | 38 | 373 | 11 |
| | 2001/02 | 4,354 | 100 | 1,879 | 43 | 335 | 8 | 1,746 | 40 | 394 | 9 |
| Sexual assault (level 2) | 1994/95 | 780 | 100 | 173 | 22 | 8 | 1 | 272 | 35 | 327 | 42 |
| | 1995/96 | 692 | 100 | 196 | 28 | 31 | 4 | 229 | 33 | 236 | 34 |
| | 1996/97 | 572 | 100 | 166 | 29 | 24 | 4 | 196 | 34 | 186 | 33 |
| | 1997/98 | 548 | 100 | 140 | 26 | 17 | 3 | 211 | 39 | 180 | 33 |
| | 1998/99 | 507 | 100 | 163 | 32 | 20 | 4 | 192 | 38 | 132 | 26 |
| | 1999/00 | 375 | 100 | 120 | 32 | 23 | 6 | 158 | 42 | 74 | 20 |
| | 2000/01 | 333 | 100 | 102 | 31 | 23 | 7 | 129 | 39 | 79 | 24 |
| | 2001/02 | 417 | 100 | 137 | 33 | 29 | 7 | 167 | 40 | 84 | 20 |
| Sexual assault (level 3) | 1994/95 | 279 | 100 | 52 | 19 | 2 | 1 | 109 | 39 | 116 | 42 |
| | 1995/96 | 213 | 100 | 35 | 16 | 12 | 6 | 92 | 43 | 74 | 35 |
| | 1996/97 | 164 | 100 | 41 | 25 | 2 | 1 | 63 | 38 | 58 | 35 |
| | 1997/98 | 182 | 100 | 47 | 26 | 6 | 3 | 75 | 41 | 54 | 30 |
| | 1998/99 | 177 | 100 | 46 | 26 | 5 | 3 | 82 | 46 | 44 | 25 |
| | 1999/00 | 151 | 100 | 45 | 30 | 11 | 7 | 69 | 46 | 26 | 17 |
| | 2000/01 | 112 | 100 | 33 | 29 | 6 | 5 | 47 | 42 | 26 | 23 |
| | 2001/02 | 146 | 100 | 39 | 27 | 10 | 7 | 65 | 45 | 32 | 22 |
| Other sexual offences | 1994/95 | 2,776 | 100 | 890 | 32 | 100 | 4 | 1,036 | 37 | 750 | 27 |
| | 1995/96 | 2,730 | 100 | 943 | 35 | 167 | 6 | 1,004 | 37 | 616 | 23 |
| | 1996/97 | 2,374 | 100 | 854 | 36 | 127 | 5 | 898 | 38 | 495 | 21 |
| | 1997/98 | 2,541 | 100 | 905 | 36 | 150 | 6 | 991 | 39 | 495 | 19 |
| | 1998/99 | 2,440 | 100 | 894 | 37 | 177 | 7 | 1,020 | 42 | 349 | 14 |
| | 1999/00 | 2,182 | 100 | 843 | 39 | 158 | 7 | 906 | 42 | 275 | 13 |
| | 2000/01 | 2,098 | 100 | 840 | 40 | 133 | 6 | 849 | 40 | 276 | 13 |
| | 2001/02 | 2,383 | 100 | 927 | 39 | 182 | 8 | 1,008 | 42 | 266 | 11 |
| Total sexual offences | 1994/95 | 8,304 | 100 | 2,610 | 31 | 280 | 3 | 3,061 | 37 | 2,353 | 28 |
| | 1995/96 | 7,882 | 100 | 2,740 | 35 | 445 | 6 | 2,853 | 36 | 1,844 | 23 |
| | 1996/97 | 7,010 | 100 | 2,711 | 39 | 336 | 5 | 2,592 | 37 | 1,371 | 20 |
| | 1997/98 | 7,408 | 100 | 2,763 | 37 | 372 | 5 | 2,873 | 39 | 1,400 | 19 |
| | 1998/99 | 7,157 | 100 | 2,821 | 39 | 479 | 7 | 2,864 | 40 | 993 | 14 |
| | 1999/00 | 6,337 | 100 | 2,676 | 42 | 390 | 6 | 2,465 | 39 | 806 | 13 |
| | 2000/01 | 5,822 | 100 | 2,419 | 42 | 379 | 7 | 2,270 | 39 | 754 | 13 |
| | 2001/02 | 7,300 | 100 | 2,982 | 41 | 556 | 8 | 2,986 | 41 | 776 | 11 |
| Other violent offences | 1994/95 | 94,323 | 100 | 42,953 | 46 | 2,685 | 3 | 39,334 | 42 | 9,351 | 10 |
| | 1995/96 | 94,172 | 100 | 46,736 | 50 | 4,418 | 5 | 36,972 | 39 | 6,046 | 6 |
| | 1996/97 | 90,097 | 100 | 45,891 | 51 | 4,686 | 5 | 34,711 | 39 | 4,809 | 5 |
| | 1997/98 | 93,538 | 100 | 47,405 | 51 | 5,118 | 5 | 36,600 | 39 | 4,415 | 5 |
| | 1998/99 | 91,664 | 100 | 47,308 | 52 | 5,020 | 5 | 35,676 | 39 | 3,660 | 4 |
| | 1999/00 | 88,111 | 100 | 45,047 | 51 | 5,084 | 6 | 34,488 | 39 | 3,492 | 4 |
| | 2000/01 | 89,583 | 100 | 46,416 | 52 | 5,203 | 6 | 34,262 | 38 | 3,702 | 4 |
| | 2001/02 | 113,212 | 100 | 57,506 | 51 | 6,986 | 6 | 44,288 | 39 | 4,432 | 4 |

¹ Other decisions include final decisions of found not criminally responsible, waived in province/territory, and waived out of province/territory. This order also includes any order where a conviction was not recorded, the court's acceptance of a special plea, cases which raise Charter arguments and cases where the accused was found unfit to stand trial. In jurisdictions not providing superior court data (i.e., Newfoundland and Labrador, Nova Scotia, Quebec, Ontario, Saskatchewan), the other decision category includes charges having a committal for trial in superior court as the decision on the final appearance in provincial court.

² Manitoba and Nunavut do not participate in this survey. British Columbia and New Brunswick began participating in 2001/02 and so have been excluded from this analysis for all years. Northwest Territories is excluded in 1996/97, 2000/01 and 2001/02. In 1999/00, cases in Northwest Territories accounted for 0.4% of the total caseload.

Note: Represents most serious offence in the case.

Revised figures for 1994/95 to 2000/01. Revisions were made to the ACCS counting procedures and offence classifications, and applications under CCC s.810, s.810.01, s.810.1, and s.810.2 (peace bond applications) were excluded. The definition of violent offences has been expanded to include criminal harassment, uttering threats and other violent offences. Previously they were captured under Other Criminal Code.

Source: Adult Criminal Court Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

Table 9

Sentences in Adult Criminal Court for cases involving sexual offences and other violence offences, 1994/95 to 2001/02²

| | | Total | | Prison | | Conditional sentence ¹ | | Probation | | Fine | | Other | | Unknown | |
|--------------------------|---------|--------|-----|--------|----|-----------------------------------|-----|-----------|----|--------|----|--------|---|---------|----|
| | | Number | % | Number | % | Number | % | Number | % | Number | % | Number | % | Number | % |
| Sexual assault (level 1) | 1994/95 | 1,495 | 100 | 884 | 59 | ... | ... | 537 | 36 | 53 | 4 | 6 | 0 | 15 | 1 |
| | 1995/96 | 1,566 | 100 | 968 | 62 | ... | ... | 509 | 33 | 50 | 3 | 15 | 1 | 24 | 2 |
| | 1996/97 | 1,650 | 100 | 912 | 55 | ... | ... | 645 | 39 | 54 | 3 | 24 | 1 | 15 | 1 |
| | 1997/98 | 1,671 | 100 | 849 | 51 | ... | ... | 716 | 43 | 61 | 4 | 21 | 1 | 24 | 1 |
| | 1998/99 | 1,718 | 100 | 915 | 53 | 150 | 9 | 574 | 33 | 36 | 2 | 19 | 1 | 24 | 1 |
| | 1999/00 | 1,668 | 100 | 875 | 52 | 173 | 10 | 540 | 32 | 34 | 2 | 18 | 1 | 28 | 2 |
| | 2000/01 | 1,444 | 100 | 693 | 48 | 200 | 14 | 483 | 33 | 30 | 2 | 27 | 2 | 11 | 1 |
| | 2001/02 | 1,879 | 100 | 866 | 46 | 306 | 16 | 568 | 30 | 30 | 2 | 37 | 2 | 72 | 4 |
| Sexual assault (level 2) | 1994/95 | 173 | 100 | 146 | 84 | ... | ... | 22 | 13 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 1 |
| | 1995/96 | 196 | 100 | 164 | 84 | ... | ... | 28 | 14 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 1 |
| | 1996/97 | 166 | 100 | 143 | 86 | ... | ... | 20 | 12 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 1 |
| | 1997/98 | 140 | 100 | 104 | 74 | ... | ... | 28 | 20 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 3 | 4 | 3 |
| | 1998/99 | 163 | 100 | 125 | 77 | 13 | 8 | 21 | 13 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 2 |
| | 1999/00 | 120 | 100 | 78 | 65 | 15 | 13 | 16 | 13 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 4 | 6 | 5 |
| | 2000/01 | 102 | 100 | 74 | 73 | 14 | 14 | 11 | 11 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 1 |
| | 2001/02 | 137 | 100 | 101 | 74 | 20 | 15 | 6 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 2 | 7 | 5 |
| Sexual assault (level 3) | 1994/95 | 52 | 100 | 41 | 79 | ... | ... | 9 | 17 | 2 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | 1995/96 | 35 | 100 | 27 | 77 | ... | ... | 4 | 11 | 4 | 11 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | 1996/97 | 41 | 100 | 29 | 71 | ... | ... | 5 | 12 | 3 | 7 | 2 | 5 | 2 | 5 |
| | 1997/98 | 47 | 100 | 35 | 74 | ... | ... | 5 | 11 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 4 | 4 | 9 |
| | 1998/99 | 46 | 100 | 29 | 63 | 7 | 15 | 3 | 7 | 2 | 4 | 1 | 2 | 4 | 9 |
| | 1999/00 | 45 | 100 | 33 | 73 | 8 | 18 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 7 |
| | 2000/01 | 33 | 100 | 26 | 79 | 1 | 3 | 3 | 9 | 2 | 6 | 1 | 3 | 0 | 0 |
| | 2001/02 | 39 | 100 | 27 | 69 | 2 | 5 | 4 | 10 | 1 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 13 |
| Other sexual offences | 1994/95 | 890 | 100 | 585 | 66 | ... | ... | 286 | 32 | 8 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 10 | 1 |
| | 1995/96 | 943 | 100 | 595 | 63 | ... | ... | 327 | 35 | 6 | 1 | 4 | 0 | 11 | 1 |
| | 1996/97 | 854 | 100 | 558 | 65 | ... | ... | 270 | 32 | 9 | 1 | 14 | 2 | 3 | 0 |
| | 1997/98 | 905 | 100 | 560 | 62 | ... | ... | 319 | 35 | 5 | 1 | 12 | 1 | 9 | 1 |
| | 1998/99 | 894 | 100 | 559 | 63 | 96 | 11 | 218 | 24 | 9 | 1 | 10 | 1 | 2 | 0 |
| | 1999/00 | 843 | 100 | 487 | 58 | 110 | 13 | 224 | 27 | 9 | 1 | 5 | 1 | 8 | 1 |
| | 2000/01 | 840 | 100 | 498 | 59 | 104 | 12 | 225 | 27 | 4 | 0 | 8 | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| | 2001/02 | 927 | 100 | 478 | 52 | 178 | 19 | 232 | 25 | 3 | 0 | 14 | 2 | 22 | 2 |
| Total sexual offences | 1994/95 | 2,610 | 100 | 1,656 | 63 | ... | ... | 854 | 33 | 65 | 2 | 8 | 0 | 27 | |
| | 1995/96 | 2,740 | 100 | 1,754 | 64 | ... | ... | 868 | 32 | 61 | 2 | 20 | 1 | 37 | |
| | 1996/97 | 2,711 | 100 | 1,642 | 61 | ... | ... | 940 | 35 | 66 | 2 | 41 | 2 | 22 | |
| | 1997/98 | 2,763 | 100 | 1,548 | 56 | ... | ... | 1,068 | 39 | 67 | 2 | 39 | 1 | 41 | |
| | 1998/99 | 2,821 | 100 | 1,628 | 58 | 266 | 9 | 816 | 29 | 47 | 2 | 31 | 1 | 33 | 1 |
| | 1999/00 | 2,676 | 100 | 1,473 | 55 | 306 | 11 | 781 | 29 | 43 | 2 | 28 | 1 | 45 | 2 |
| | 2000/01 | 2,419 | 100 | 1,291 | 53 | 319 | 13 | 722 | 30 | 36 | 1 | 38 | 2 | 13 | 1 |
| | 2001/02 | 2,982 | 100 | 1,472 | 49 | 506 | 17 | 810 | 27 | 34 | 1 | 54 | 2 | 106 | 4 |
| Other violent offences | 1994/95 | 42,953 | 100 | 15,959 | 37 | ... | ... | 20,319 | 47 | 4,961 | 12 | 633 | 1 | 1,081 | 3 |
| | 1995/96 | 46,736 | 100 | 17,444 | 37 | ... | ... | 22,273 | 48 | 4,664 | 10 | 724 | 2 | 1,631 | 3 |
| | 1996/97 | 45,891 | 100 | 17,030 | 37 | ... | ... | 23,278 | 51 | 4,088 | 9 | 1,103 | 2 | 392 | 1 |
| | 1997/98 | 47,405 | 100 | 17,064 | 36 | ... | ... | 24,740 | 52 | 3,753 | 8 | 1,222 | 3 | 626 | 1 |
| | 1998/99 | 47,308 | 100 | 17,703 | 37 | 1,051 | 2 | 23,506 | 50 | 3,513 | 7 | 1,092 | 2 | 443 | 1 |
| | 1999/00 | 45,047 | 100 | 16,356 | 36 | 1,327 | 3 | 22,520 | 50 | 3,073 | 7 | 1,166 | 3 | 605 | 1 |
| | 2000/01 | 46,416 | 100 | 17,066 | 37 | 1,312 | 3 | 23,688 | 51 | 2,675 | 6 | 1,262 | 3 | 413 | 1 |
| | 2001/02 | 57,506 | 100 | 20,366 | 35 | 2,528 | 4 | 28,432 | 49 | 2,847 | 5 | 1,710 | 3 | 1,623 | 3 |

... not applicable

¹ Data on conditional sentences are not available for Quebec.

² Manitoba and Nunavut do not participate in this survey. British Columbia and New Brunswick began participating in 2001/02 and so have been excluded from this analysis for all years. Northwest Territories is excluded in 1996/97, 2000/01 and 2001/02. In 1999/00, cases in Northwest Territories accounted for 0.4% of the total caseload.

Note: Represents most serious offence in the case and most serious sentence.

Revised figures for 1994/95 to 2000/01. Revisions were made to the ACCS counting procedures and offence classifications, and applications under CCC s.810, s.810.01, s.810.1, and s.810.2 (peace bond applications) were excluded. The definition of violent offences has been expanded to include criminal harassment, uttering threats and other violent offences. Previously they were captured under Other Criminal Code.

Source: Adult Criminal Court Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

Table 10



Decisions in Youth Court for cases involving sexual offences and other violent offences, 1994/95 to 2001/02

| | | Total | | Guilty | | Transfer to adult court | | Transfer jurisdiction | | Withdrawn | | Dismissed | | Stayed | | Acquitted | | Other | |
|---|---------|--------|-----|--------|----|-------------------------|---|-----------------------|---|-----------|----|-----------|----|--------|----|-----------|----|--------|---|
| | | Number | % | Number | % | Number | % | Number | % | Number | % | Number | % | Number | % | Number | % | Number | % |
| Sexual assault (level 1) | 1994/95 | 1,408 | 100 | 821 | 58 | 11 | 1 | 3 | 0 | 233 | 17 | 116 | 8 | 133 | 9 | 88 | 6 | 3 | 0 |
| | 1995/96 | 1,197 | 100 | 654 | 55 | 9 | 1 | 3 | 0 | 209 | 17 | 106 | 9 | 125 | 10 | 88 | 7 | 3 | 0 |
| | 1996/97 | 1,104 | 100 | 620 | 56 | 6 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 195 | 18 | 73 | 7 | 136 | 12 | 70 | 6 | 3 | 0 |
| | 1997/98 | 1,128 | 100 | 622 | 55 | 6 | 1 | 3 | 0 | 191 | 17 | 96 | 9 | 134 | 12 | 73 | 6 | 3 | 0 |
| | 1998/99 | 1,184 | 100 | 719 | 61 | 4 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 190 | 16 | 78 | 7 | 121 | 10 | 65 | 5 | 4 | 0 |
| | 1999/00 | 1,071 | 100 | 624 | 58 | 1 | 0 | 5 | 0 | 184 | 17 | 60 | 6 | 133 | 12 | 56 | 5 | 8 | 1 |
| | 2000/01 | 1,097 | 100 | 637 | 58 | 4 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 197 | 18 | 82 | 7 | 110 | 10 | 60 | 5 | 4 | 0 |
| | 2001/02 | 1,052 | 100 | 639 | 61 | 5 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 174 | 17 | 82 | 8 | 101 | 10 | 48 | 5 | 1 | 0 |
| Sexual assault (level 2&3) ¹ | 1994/95 | 71 | 100 | 33 | 46 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 14 | 20 | 5 | 7 | 5 | 7 | 12 | 17 | 0 | 0 |
| | 1995/96 | 51 | 100 | 21 | 41 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 14 | 27 | 7 | 14 | 3 | 6 | 5 | 10 | 1 | 2 |
| | 1996/97 | 34 | 100 | 17 | 50 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 9 | 4 | 12 | 3 | 9 | 6 | 18 | 1 | 3 |
| | 1997/98 | 74 | 100 | 29 | 39 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 15 | 20 | 14 | 19 | 8 | 11 | 7 | 9 | 0 | 0 |
| | 1998/99 | 56 | 100 | 23 | 41 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 13 | 23 | 5 | 9 | 3 | 5 | 8 | 14 | 4 | 7 |
| | 1999/00 | 52 | 100 | 18 | 35 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 18 | 35 | 10 | 19 | 1 | 2 | 4 | 8 | 0 | 0 |
| | 2000/01 | 50 | 100 | 17 | 34 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 17 | 34 | 5 | 10 | 9 | 18 | 2 | 4 | 0 | 0 |
| | 2001/02 | 44 | 100 | 19 | 43 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 5 | 12 | 27 | 2 | 5 | 7 | 16 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| Other sexual offences | 1994/95 | 739 | 100 | 371 | 50 | 4 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 138 | 19 | 68 | 9 | 119 | 16 | 37 | 5 | 1 | 0 |
| | 1995/96 | 640 | 100 | 327 | 51 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 142 | 22 | 50 | 8 | 89 | 14 | 30 | 5 | 1 | 0 |
| | 1996/97 | 597 | 100 | 278 | 47 | 5 | 1 | 3 | 1 | 141 | 24 | 58 | 10 | 82 | 14 | 30 | 5 | 0 | 0 |
| | 1997/98 | 629 | 100 | 285 | 45 | 3 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 166 | 26 | 53 | 8 | 94 | 15 | 24 | 4 | 2 | 0 |
| | 1998/99 | 563 | 100 | 256 | 45 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 167 | 30 | 47 | 8 | 64 | 11 | 26 | 5 | 1 | 0 |
| | 1999/00 | 530 | 100 | 249 | 47 | 2 | 0 | 5 | 1 | 127 | 24 | 38 | 7 | 81 | 15 | 23 | 4 | 5 | 1 |
| | 2000/01 | 615 | 100 | 285 | 46 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 172 | 28 | 25 | 4 | 94 | 15 | 29 | 5 | 7 | 1 |
| | 2001/02 | 603 | 100 | 293 | 49 | 3 | 0 | 5 | 1 | 153 | 25 | 37 | 6 | 72 | 12 | 38 | 6 | 2 | 0 |
| Total sexual offences | 1994/95 | 2,218 | 100 | 1,225 | 55 | 16 | 1 | 5 | 0 | 385 | 17 | 189 | 9 | 257 | 12 | 137 | 6 | 4 | 0 |
| | 1995/96 | 1,888 | 100 | 1,002 | 53 | 9 | 0 | 4 | 0 | 365 | 19 | 163 | 9 | 217 | 11 | 123 | 7 | 5 | 0 |
| | 1996/97 | 1,735 | 100 | 915 | 53 | 11 | 1 | 4 | 0 | 339 | 20 | 135 | 8 | 221 | 13 | 106 | 6 | 4 | 0 |
| | 1997/98 | 1,831 | 100 | 936 | 51 | 10 | 1 | 5 | 0 | 372 | 20 | 163 | 9 | 236 | 13 | 104 | 6 | 5 | 0 |
| | 1998/99 | 1,803 | 100 | 998 | 55 | 4 | 0 | 5 | 0 | 370 | 21 | 130 | 7 | 188 | 10 | 99 | 5 | 9 | 0 |
| | 1999/00 | 1,653 | 100 | 891 | 54 | 4 | 0 | 10 | 1 | 329 | 20 | 108 | 7 | 215 | 13 | 83 | 5 | 13 | 1 |
| | 2000/01 | 1,762 | 100 | 939 | 53 | 5 | 0 | 5 | 0 | 386 | 22 | 112 | 6 | 213 | 12 | 91 | 5 | 11 | 1 |
| | 2001/02 | 1,699 | 100 | 951 | 56 | 9 | 1 | 9 | 1 | 339 | 20 | 121 | 7 | 180 | 11 | 87 | 5 | 3 | 0 |
| Other violent offences | 1994/95 | 18,829 | 100 | 11,821 | 63 | 54 | 0 | 12 | 0 | 3,904 | 21 | 741 | 4 | 1,729 | 9 | 565 | 3 | 3 | 0 |
| | 1995/96 | 19,195 | 100 | 11,879 | 62 | 26 | 0 | 17 | 0 | 4,019 | 21 | 767 | 4 | 1,989 | 10 | 478 | 2 | 20 | 0 |
| | 1996/97 | 19,753 | 100 | 12,516 | 63 | 31 | 0 | 24 | 0 | 3,861 | 20 | 807 | 4 | 1,961 | 10 | 523 | 3 | 30 | 0 |
| | 1997/98 | 21,104 | 100 | 13,104 | 62 | 27 | 0 | 29 | 0 | 4,410 | 21 | 818 | 4 | 2,142 | 10 | 522 | 2 | 52 | 0 |
| | 1998/99 | 21,403 | 100 | 13,677 | 64 | 39 | 0 | 27 | 0 | 4,499 | 21 | 755 | 4 | 1,799 | 8 | 513 | 2 | 94 | 0 |
| | 1999/00 | 20,779 | 100 | 13,048 | 63 | 21 | 0 | 37 | 0 | 4,464 | 21 | 743 | 4 | 1,904 | 9 | 480 | 2 | 82 | 0 |
| | 2000/01 | 20,913 | 100 | 12,790 | 61 | 33 | 0 | 52 | 0 | 4,813 | 23 | 720 | 3 | 2,002 | 10 | 473 | 2 | 30 | 0 |
| | 2001/02 | 20,812 | 100 | 12,848 | 62 | 21 | 0 | 66 | 0 | 4,618 | 22 | 772 | 4 | 2,017 | 10 | 449 | 2 | 21 | 0 |

¹ Sexual assault levels 2 and 3 have been grouped together due to very low counts.

Note: Represents most serious offence in the case.

Source: Youth Court Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

Table 11



Sentences in Youth Court for cases involving sexual offences and other violent offences, 1994/95 to 2001/02

| | | Total | | Secure custody | | Open custody | | Probation | | Fine | | Other | |
|---|---------|--------|-----|----------------|----|--------------|----|-----------|----|--------|---|--------|----|
| | | Number | % | Number | % | Number | % | Number | % | Number | % | Number | % |
| Sexual assault (level 1) | 1994/95 | 821 | 100 | 144 | 18 | 154 | 19 | 497 | 61 | 3 | 0 | 23 | 3 |
| | 1995/96 | 654 | 100 | 96 | 15 | 135 | 21 | 395 | 60 | 7 | 1 | 21 | 3 |
| | 1996/97 | 620 | 100 | 87 | 14 | 114 | 18 | 402 | 65 | 2 | 0 | 15 | 2 |
| | 1997/98 | 622 | 100 | 78 | 13 | 99 | 16 | 408 | 66 | 2 | 0 | 35 | 6 |
| | 1998/99 | 719 | 100 | 86 | 12 | 98 | 14 | 476 | 66 | 3 | 0 | 56 | 8 |
| | 1999/00 | 624 | 100 | 72 | 12 | 85 | 14 | 439 | 70 | 1 | 0 | 27 | 4 |
| | 2000/01 | 637 | 100 | 88 | 14 | 72 | 11 | 432 | 68 | 0 | 0 | 45 | 7 |
| | 2001/02 | 639 | 100 | 64 | 10 | 85 | 13 | 440 | 69 | 1 | 0 | 49 | 8 |
| Sexual assault (level 2&3) ¹ | 1994/95 | 33 | 100 | 12 | 36 | 9 | 27 | 11 | 33 | 1 | 3 | 0 | 0 |
| | 1995/96 | 21 | 100 | 10 | 48 | 5 | 24 | 4 | 19 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 10 |
| | 1996/97 | 18 | 100 | 8 | 44 | 3 | 17 | 6 | 33 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 6 |
| | 1997/98 | 29 | 100 | 13 | 45 | 10 | 34 | 4 | 14 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 7 |
| | 1998/99 | 23 | 100 | 10 | 43 | 4 | 17 | 9 | 39 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | 1999/00 | 18 | 100 | 4 | 22 | 8 | 44 | 5 | 28 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 6 |
| | 2000/01 | 17 | 100 | 6 | 35 | 6 | 35 | 4 | 24 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 6 |
| | 2001/02 | 19 | 100 | 11 | 58 | 3 | 16 | 5 | 26 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Other sexual offences | 1994/95 | 371 | 100 | 49 | 13 | 73 | 20 | 240 | 65 | 0 | 0 | 9 | 2 |
| | 1995/96 | 327 | 100 | 36 | 11 | 49 | 15 | 237 | 72 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 2 |
| | 1996/97 | 278 | 100 | 33 | 12 | 39 | 14 | 196 | 71 | 2 | 1 | 8 | 3 |
| | 1997/98 | 285 | 100 | 31 | 11 | 38 | 13 | 195 | 68 | 1 | 0 | 20 | 7 |
| | 1998/99 | 256 | 100 | 24 | 9 | 39 | 15 | 177 | 69 | 0 | 0 | 16 | 6 |
| | 1999/00 | 249 | 100 | 28 | 11 | 21 | 8 | 188 | 76 | 0 | 0 | 12 | 5 |
| | 2000/01 | 285 | 100 | 30 | 11 | 37 | 13 | 201 | 71 | 0 | 0 | 17 | 6 |
| | 2001/02 | 293 | 100 | 25 | 9 | 38 | 13 | 213 | 73 | 1 | 0 | 16 | 5 |
| Total sexual offences | 1994/95 | 1,225 | 100 | 205 | 17 | 236 | 19 | 748 | 61 | 4 | 0 | 32 | 3 |
| | 1995/96 | 1,002 | 100 | 142 | 14 | 189 | 19 | 636 | 63 | 7 | 1 | 28 | 3 |
| | 1996/97 | 916 | 100 | 128 | 14 | 156 | 17 | 604 | 66 | 4 | 0 | 24 | 3 |
| | 1997/98 | 936 | 100 | 122 | 13 | 147 | 16 | 607 | 65 | 3 | 0 | 57 | 6 |
| | 1998/99 | 998 | 100 | 120 | 12 | 141 | 14 | 662 | 66 | 3 | 0 | 72 | 7 |
| | 1999/00 | 891 | 100 | 104 | 12 | 114 | 13 | 632 | 71 | 1 | 0 | 40 | 4 |
| | 2000/01 | 939 | 100 | 124 | 13 | 115 | 12 | 637 | 68 | 0 | 0 | 63 | 7 |
| | 2001/02 | 951 | 100 | 100 | 11 | 126 | 13 | 658 | 69 | 2 | 0 | 65 | 7 |
| Other violent offences | 1994/95 | 11,821 | 100 | 1,710 | 14 | 1,917 | 16 | 6,901 | 58 | 317 | 3 | 976 | 8 |
| | 1995/96 | 11,879 | 100 | 1,616 | 14 | 1,937 | 16 | 7,079 | 60 | 242 | 2 | 1,005 | 8 |
| | 1996/97 | 12,516 | 100 | 1,838 | 15 | 1,906 | 15 | 7,643 | 61 | 213 | 2 | 916 | 7 |
| | 1997/98 | 13,104 | 100 | 1,902 | 15 | 2,100 | 16 | 7,710 | 59 | 246 | 2 | 1,146 | 9 |
| | 1998/99 | 13,677 | 100 | 2,101 | 15 | 2,093 | 15 | 8,106 | 59 | 226 | 2 | 1,151 | 8 |
| | 1999/00 | 13,048 | 100 | 1,867 | 14 | 1,837 | 14 | 7,989 | 61 | 222 | 2 | 1,133 | 9 |
| | 2000/01 | 12,790 | 100 | 1,886 | 15 | 1,863 | 15 | 7,792 | 61 | 172 | 1 | 1,077 | 8 |
| | 2001/02 | 12,848 | 100 | 1,869 | 15 | 1,656 | 13 | 8,036 | 63 | 158 | 1 | 1,129 | 9 |

¹ Sexual assault levels 2 and 3 have been grouped together due to very low counts.

Note: Represents most serious offence in the case and most serious sentence.

Source: Youth Court Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

Table 12



Repeat convictions for sex offenders and other offenders, 1999/2000

| | Total cases | % | First time offenders | % | One previous conviction within the same offence group | % | More than one previous conviction within the same offence group | % | Previous convictions within a different offence group | % |
|-------------------------|-------------|-----|----------------------|----|---|----|---|----|---|----|
| Total sexual offences | 443 | 100 | 217 | 49 | 45 | 10 | 6 | 1 | 175 | 40 |
| Other violent offences | 8,659 | 100 | 3,398 | 39 | 1,632 | 19 | 1,115 | 13 | 2,514 | 29 |
| Crimes against property | 16,967 | 100 | 6,456 | 38 | 3,032 | 18 | 5,422 | 32 | 2,057 | 12 |
| Other offences | 29,977 | 100 | 12,833 | 43 | 5,701 | 19 | 6,716 | 22 | 4,727 | 16 |

Note: Represents most serious offence in the case.

Source: Adult Criminal Court Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

Table 13



Cases appearing before Adult Criminal Court in 2001/02 by number of charges per case

| | Total | % | One charge | % | Two charges | % | Three+ charges | % | Three charges | % | Four charges | % | Five+ charges | % |
|-------------------------|---------|-----|------------|----|-------------|----|----------------|----|---------------|----|--------------|----|---------------|----|
| Total sexual offences | 7,300 | 100 | 3,185 | 44 | 1,740 | 24 | 2,375 | 33 | 874 | 12 | 552 | 8 | 949 | 13 |
| Sexual assault | 4,917 | 100 | 2,660 | 54 | 971 | 20 | 1,286 | 26 | 492 | 10 | 274 | 6 | 520 | 11 |
| Other sexual offences | 2,383 | 100 | 525 | 22 | 769 | 32 | 1,089 | 46 | 382 | 16 | 278 | 12 | 429 | 18 |
| Other violent offences | 113,212 | 100 | 55,361 | 49 | 26,895 | 24 | 30,956 | 27 | 12,843 | 11 | 6,931 | 6 | 11,182 | 10 |
| Crimes against property | 104,764 | 100 | 52,584 | 50 | 23,639 | 23 | 28,541 | 27 | 10,623 | 10 | 5,914 | 6 | 12,004 | 11 |

Note: Represents most serious offence in the case. Multiple charges are not necessarily of the same type.

Source: Adult Criminal Court Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics

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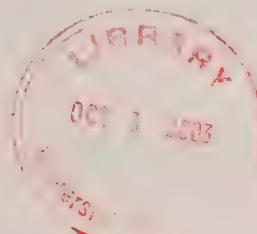
CUSTODIAL REMAND IN CANADA, 1986/87 TO 2000/01

by Sara Johnson

Highlights

- In fiscal year 2000/01, there was a combined total of 199,500 remand and sentenced adult admissions to provincial/territorial custody. Of these, approximately 59% (118,600) were remand and 41% (80,900) were sentenced.
- Adult remand admissions almost doubled from approximately 68,000 in 1986/87 to over 110,000 in 1991/92 and have remained relatively constant thereafter. Since 1986/87, the proportion of admissions to provincial/territorial custody that were remands has been steadily increasing from 38% to almost 60% in 2000/01. In contrast, sentenced custody admissions reached a peak of over 120,000 in 1992/93 and have steadily decreased since then to just under 81,000 in 2000/01, partially due to the introduction of conditional sentences in 1996.
- The number of remand admissions has remained stable since 1991/92 while the number of persons charged has decreased since 1986/87. As a result, since 1991/92 the remand rate of admissions per 10,000 adults charged has increased from approximately 1,720 to 2,300 in 2000/01, an increase of 33%.
- On an average day in 2000/01, there were approximately 18,400 adults held in provincial/territorial custody, of which 40% (7,400) were held in remand and 60% (10,950) were in sentenced custody.
- The average daily count of adults remanded to custody in 2000/01 was over 7,400, approximately double the 1986/87 levels. In comparison, the average daily count of offenders in sentenced custody was steady from 1986/87 to 1989/90, increased from 1989/90 (13,000) to a peak of over 14,300 in 1994/95 then declined steadily to almost 11,000 in 2000/01.
- The proportion of remanded adults among all adults in provincial/territorial custody on an average day ranged from 23% to 30% until 1996/97, increasing steadily thereafter to 40% in 2000/01.
- The remand incarceration rate increased from 19 adults per 100,000 adults in 1986/87 to 31 in 2000/01, an increase of 63%. In contrast, the provincial/territorial sentenced incarceration rate decreased 30% from 66 per 100,000 adults in 1991/92 to 46 in 2000/01.
- In 2000/01, a total of approximately 25,000¹ young offenders were admitted to custody, of which more than 15,000 (60%) were held in pre-trial detention.
- In 2000/01, on any given day there was an average of approximately 440 youths held in pre-trial detention, an increase of 25% from 1991/92 (350), down 8% from the peak of 480 in 1997/98.
- In 2000/01 the sentenced youth incarceration rate was 135 per 100,000 youth population, a decrease (33%) from the peak of 202 in 1994/95. Conversely, the remand rate has fluctuated between 1991/92 and 2000/01, ranging from 38 to 49 over this time period, with a remand rate of 45 in 2000/01.
- One of the main factors influencing remand trends appears to be violent crime trends which follow the same patterns as adult remand admissions. A number of other factors influencing remand trends include the use of time served sentences, increasing duration of remand and implementation of conditional sentences (and conditional sentence breaches).

¹ Excludes data from Saskatchewan and Ontario youths aged 12-15 years.



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INTRODUCTION

Custodial remand, a provincial/territorial responsibility also referred to as 'pre-trial detention', occurs when a person is ordered by the court to be held in custody while awaiting a further court appearance. Application of the provision is clearly articulated in the Criminal Code, the former Young Offenders Act, the Youth Criminal Justice Act, the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, as well as United Nations principles on human rights. In Canada, the Charter guarantees the right to liberty and to not be deprived thereof except in accordance with the principles of fundamental justice (s. 7). Similarly, the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for non-custodial measures (The Tokyo Rules) state that "Pre-trial detentions shall be used as a means of last resort in criminal proceedings with due regard for the investigation of the alleged offence and for the protection of society and the victim" (rule 6.1). The Charter, as well as applicable youth legislation, provides additional constraints and guidelines with respect to the use of remand.

While rates of crime and sentenced custody have been generally decreasing, admissions to custodial remand have been increasing steadily such that remands have been progressively comprising a larger share of the incarcerated population. Further, remand tends to require higher levels of security and more intensive supervision which is typically more costly. As a result, the increasing use of remand has been identified as an important operational concern among the agencies responsible for the administration of provincial and territorial correctional services. This *Juristat* profiles custodial remand in Canada and examines some of the factors that may be influencing these trends in its use. Note that due to gaps in coverage for youth corrections data in several jurisdictions, this *Juristat* focuses primarily on adult corrections.

Text Box 1 – Legal Framework

- **Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms.** Sections 8 through 14 of the Charter specify the circumstances under which the deprivation of life, liberty and security of the person violate the principles of fundamental justice and in turn are in violation of the Charter. Notably, with respect to remands the Charter specifies that everyone has the right not to be arbitrarily detained or imprisoned (s. 9). Everyone has the right on arrest or detention to have the validity of the detention determined by way of *habeas corpus* and to be released if the detention is not lawful (s. 10 (c)). Any person charged with an offence has the right to be presumed innocent until proven guilty and to not be denied reasonable bail without just cause (s. 11 (e)).

- **Criminal Code.** The Criminal Code provides guidance with respect to the circumstances and procedures surrounding the arrest of a person and the decisions relating to judicial interim release and remand to custody.

Section 503(1) – This section stipulates that unless released by the police, an arrested person who is to be detained in custody must be brought before a justice of the peace without unreasonable delay, when one is available, within a period of 24 hours. Where a justice of the peace is not available within 24 hours, the person is to be taken before the justice of the peace as soon as possible.

Section 515 – This section provides the reasons for which custodial remand is justified. It stipulates that the prosecutor must *show cause*, in respect of the offence, why the detention of the accused in custody is justified. In the case of certain specified offences such as murder (*subsection 6*), the onus is on the accused to show cause as to why he or she should not be detained in custody. The detention of an accused is justified on the following grounds (*subsection 10*):

- a) to ensure his or her attendance in court;
- b) for the protection or the safety of the public;
- c) on any other just cause being shown and where the detention is necessary in order to maintain confidence in the administration of justice.

Note that, on application made by the prosecutor or the accused, the order for remand may be made before or at any time during the course of the proceedings under section 515 (see section 516).

- **Youth Criminal Justice Act.** Effective April 1, 2003 the Youth Criminal Justice Act (YCJA) came into effect, replacing the Young Offenders Act (YOA). Under the YOA, (s. 7.1 (5)) young persons were dealt with according to the Judicial Interim Release provisions (s. 515 (10)) of the Criminal Code. Similarly, the Judicial Interim Release provisions of the Criminal Code apply to the detention and release of young persons under the YCJA (s. 28). Two noteworthy guidelines have been added to the YCJA. A young person shall not be detained in custody prior to sentencing as a social measure (e.g., child protection, mental health) (s. 29 (1)). As well, a youth justice shall not presume that detention is necessary if, after considering detention for the purpose of public safety/protection (s. 515 (10)(b)) of the Criminal Code, the young person could not be committed to custody if found guilty.

Alternatives to Pre-trial Detention

Canadian law permits several alternatives to pre-trial detention (see Figure 1). Subject to certain exceptions such as for specific serious offences, the arresting police officer may release the person with a notice to appear in court or with the intention for him or her to be summoned later. The Officer in Charge (commanding officer) may additionally enter into a recognizance² with the accused, with or without sureties (deposit of money or valuable security) or enter into an undertaking³ with conditions (such as to abstain from alcohol, or report to a peace officer). Should the accused be taken into custody ('lock-up') and not be released by the police⁴, he or she must be brought before a justice of the peace without reasonable delay where the Crown must "show cause" as to why the accused should be remanded. At this point, the justice of the peace may release the accused on an undertaking with or without conditions or, after entering into a recognizance, with or without sureties. If the accused is remanded to custody, pre-trial detention is reviewed by the court every 30 days for summary offences, and every 90 days of indictable offences. To further encourage the use of pre-trial release eight jurisdictions also operate bail supervision programs whereby the accused is supervised by a probation officer and the conditions of the recognizance are monitored (see Text Box 2).

Text Box 2 – Bail Supervision

Bail supervision, also referred to as pretrial supervision, is a supervised recognizance order that provides an alternative to custodial remand for offenders awaiting trial. This is an option that incorporates supervision of the accused in the community (e.g., reporting to a probation officer, respecting curfew hours, etc.) as part of an interim release. Currently, eight jurisdictions (Newfoundland and Labrador, Québec, Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta, British Columbia and Yukon) operate bail supervision programs for accused adults and/or youth. The following table presents admission and average daily count statistics among jurisdictions able to provide this information for fiscal year 2001/02.

Operational Challenges

Within the Canadian correctional system, the administration of remanded inmates is a provincial/territorial responsibility. The use of remand poses case management and operational challenges for the provincial/territorial correctional system. Remanded persons are under considerable stress and are in a situation of uncertainty, not knowing if or when they may be convicted of the offence for which they have been charged. The personal circumstances which may have precipitated their criminal incident, such as mental illness or drug/alcohol abuse may not be resolved. Further, under the judicial interim release provisions of the Criminal Code, the accused may have already been deemed to be at risk to the public or of absconding. Traditional rewards for good behaviour such as remission and the granting of temporary absence passes, which are used to help control the behaviour of short term inmates, are not applicable to remands. Because of these factors, persons on remand are generally considered high risk and are usually held in maximum security settings. Maximum security bed space is comparably expensive to build and maintain and its availability is limited. Furthermore, since remanded persons are awaiting trial and require regular transportation to and from court, remand bed spaces need to be in close proximity to courts. Due to the frequent travel to and from court, the opportunity to bring drugs into correctional institutions may increase.

² A recognizance is an obligation entered into before a court or magistrate whereby the accused person acknowledges that he or she will do some act required by law that has been specified.

³ An undertaking is a promise given in the course of legal proceedings by a party or his or her counsel, generally as a condition to obtaining some concession from the court or the opposite party.

⁴ Police custody is commonly referred to as 'lock-up'. Depending on a number of factors such as availability of space, existence of facilities, agreements and policies between police and corrections authorities, individuals may be placed in a remand facility for lock-up reasons, pending a bail hearing. If being housed in remand facilities, they may be counted as remands.

Text Table 1

Bail Supervision Admissions and Average Count - Selected Jurisdictions, 2001/2002, 2003

| Jurisdiction | Admissions | Average Count |
|------------------------------|------------|--|
| Québec (adult) | 22 | (average daily count) 7.4 |
| Saskatchewan (adult) | 769 | (average daily count) 337 |
| Manitoba (adult) | 1,555 | (caseload ¹ January 23, 2003) 890 |
| Alberta (adult) | 3,133 | (caseload March, 2002) 1,166 |
| Alberta (youth) ² | 568 | (caseload March, 2002) 192 |
| British Columbia (adult) | 12,210 | (average daily caseload) 5,225 |
| Yukon (adult) | 191 | (caseload March 31, 2002) 58 |

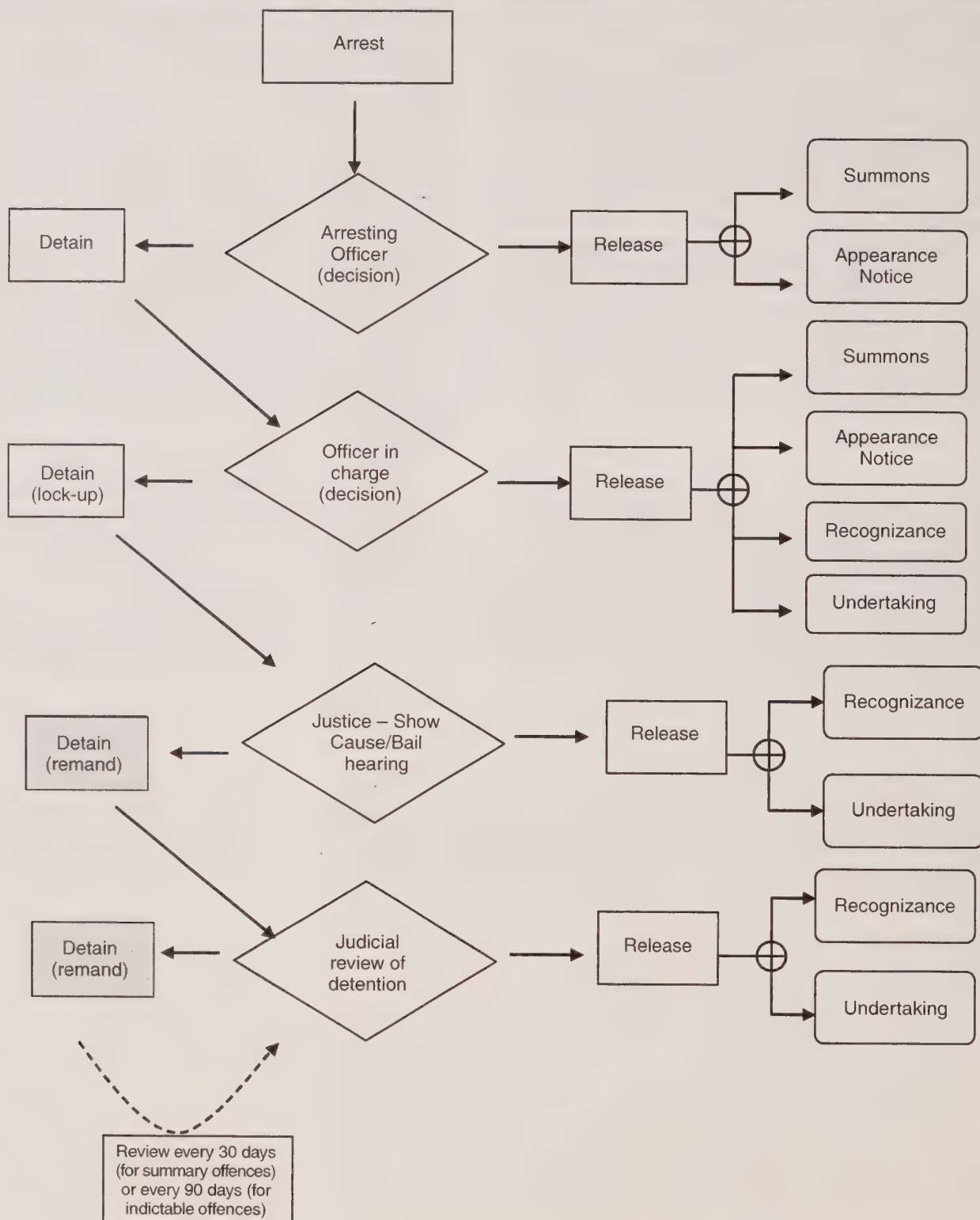
¹ Caseload includes offenders under bail supervision as of the specified date.

² Note: Alberta youth statistics include bail supervision and peace bonds. However, the number of peace bonds for young offenders is very low, estimated at about six per year.

Source: Jurisdictions were contacted during the preparation of this Juristat regarding the most recent bail supervision caseload information available.

Figure 1

Remand in the Criminal Justice Process



Text Box 3 - Video Remand/ Video Conferencing

Hundreds of thousands of inmate trips are made to and from court each year. In order to address some of the issues related to proximity, transportation and security, the use of video conferencing for routine bail and remand hearings has been introduced in some jurisdictions. The defendant in the detention facility, appears in court on closed-circuit TV, and talks to the defense lawyer on a private phone line. This process eliminates the need to transport prisoners to and from court each day. Video conferencing has been used in a number of jurisdictions including Québec, Ontario, Manitoba, Alberta, and British Columbia.

Impact on the accused

Another consideration with respect to pre-trial detention is the impact of custodial remand on the accused. Time on remand is commonly referred to as 'dead time', where the inmate may have little or no access to activities such as recreation, work and rehabilitative programs and services (The John Howard Society of Ontario, 2002). Provincial correctional facilities are designed and programmed primarily for inmates serving short sentences, such as 50 to 100 days, but not long-term remands. Structured programming (e.g., substance abuse treatment, anger management, etc.) usually requires a minimum time commitment whereas time on remand is indeterminate and frequently short in duration⁵. In some instances the inmate may avoid programming so as not to jeopardize his or her case in court. For example, a remanded person charged with impaired driving may choose not to become involved in alcohol abuse treatment in order to avoid the appearance of acknowledging an alcohol abuse problem. The concept of 'dead time' also reflects situations where the accused is spending time in prison without being sentenced, and where this period of time is not put toward (credited to) a sentence of incarceration. This situation can have some unintended negative consequences for the accused. Kellough and Wortley (2002) note that:

Thus, since accused persons held in pre-trial detention often have to spend a considerable amount of time in prison before their case will be heard, they may feel pressured to plead guilty to the original charge (or to a lesser charge) for a variety of reasons including the fact that: (1) the sentence for the crime they plead guilty to may not involve incarceration and they will ultimately be released from prison; (2) they do not want to do 'dead time' (i.e. time in prison without being sentenced); (3) they may receive 'time served' if they plead guilty and thus be immediately released from jail; or (4) pleading guilty would mean being moved from an overcrowded, pre-trial detention facility to a more pleasant correctional institution with better facilities and programmes. (p. 190)

In fact, several studies have found that those detained in pre-trial custody were more likely to plead guilty, less likely to have their charges withdrawn and were more likely to receive harsher sentences than those who were not detained, even when controlling for relevant factors such as offence type and criminal history (Koza and Doob, 1975; Kellough and Wortley, 2002).

Furthermore, persons held in remand for lengthy periods of time may receive 'time served' sentences⁶ (i.e., released at court), or have a short period of incarceration to serve once sentenced. This could potentially decrease their chances of being provided rehabilitative programs and services that they would have had access to if they had not been remanded for a

lengthy period of time, but had rather spent the remanded time under a custodial sentence.

Text Box 4 - Measures of Correctional Activity: Inmate Counts and Admissions

This report makes use of two different indicators that describe the use of adult and youth correctional services: (i) the average number or person count on any given day; and (ii) the number of annual admissions to correctional facilities or to community supervision programs.

Average counts of inmates in custody at a given point in time provide a snapshot of the daily correctional population and are used to calculate an annual average count. Managers in correctional services use average counts as an operational measure, and also as formal indicators of the utilization of bed space in institutions. Typically, correctional officials perform daily counts of inmates in their facility and monthly counts of offenders under community supervision. Average daily counts in facilities are used to produce incarceration rates per 100,000 population.

Admissions data are collected when a person enters the institution or community supervision program. While admission data describe and measure the changing case-flow of correctional agencies over time, they do not indicate the number of unique individuals in the correctional system. The same person could be included several times in the admission counts where the individual moves from one type of correctional service program to another (e.g. from remand to sentenced custody) or re-enters the system in the same year. Admission counts are used to produce an admission rate per 10,000 persons charged.

An admission to custody on remand may be the first of many admissions. For example, a person could be remanded to custody pending trial, go to trial and then receive several possible sentences: (1) incarceration for less than two years (provincial/territorial sentenced custody), (2) incarceration for two years or more (federal custody), (3) time served (released at court), or (4) non-custodial sentence (i.e., probation, fine, community service, conditional sentence, etc.). In addition, individuals may be remanded for other reasons. For example, persons already in custody may be remanded while additional charges are adjudicated. Furthermore, individuals may be remanded after having breached conditions of their conditional release.

Daily population counts are affected by length of time in custody, such that offenders with longer sentences are over-represented. Unless otherwise stated, all data are reported on a fiscal year basis, April 1 to March 31.

Statistical Overview – Adult Correctional Services

In examining adult correctional trends, it is important to acknowledge the difference between admissions and average daily count data. In general, average daily counts reflect a snapshot of the daily correctional population and provide an operational measure of caseload, while admissions data describe the changing case-flow of correctional agencies over time (see Text Box 4). Please note that the analysis of non-sentenced custody is limited to remand; other temporary detention, such as 'immigration holds' is excluded.

On an average day in 2000/01, there were 18,381 adults held in provincial/territorial custody, of which 40% (7,428) were on remand and 60% (10,953) were sentenced.

Focusing on all admissions in 2000/01, there was a total of just under 200,000 remand and sentenced admissions to provincial/territorial correctional services. Of these,

⁵ Fifty-three percent of releases from remand in 2000/01 served one week or less.

⁶ Time served sentences are described more completely later in this Juristat.

approximately 118,600 (59%) were remand whereas 80,900 (41%) were sentenced.

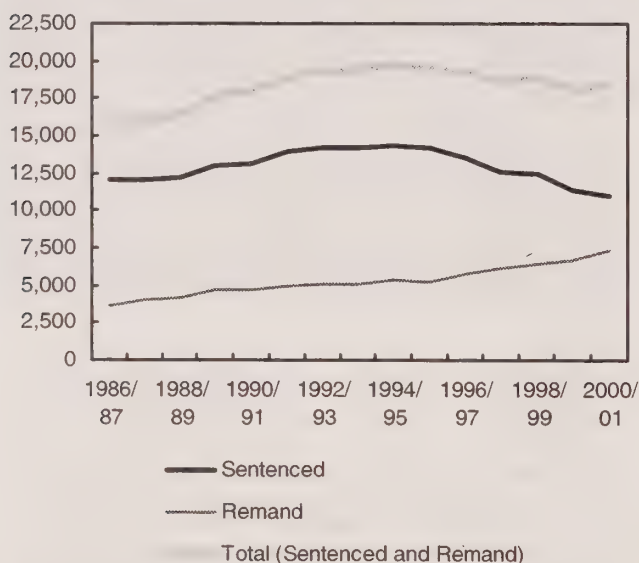
Adult Remand Daily Counts Doubled since 1986/87

In total, since 1986/87⁷, the average number of adults in provincial/territorial custody, on remand or sentenced custody, on any one day has increased 17%, from approximately 15,800 to 18,400, although there have been fluctuations during this time period (see Figure 2). While there has been some variability, remand counts doubled from just under 3,700 in 1986/87 to over 7,400 in 2000/01. In comparison, the average number of adults in sentenced custody increased from approximately 12,000 in 1986/87, peaked at more than 14,300 from 1992/93 to 1995/96, then declined steadily thereafter to less than 11,000 in 2000/01. The proportion of remanded offenders ranged from 23% to 30% until 1996/97, but increased steadily to 40% in 2000/01.

Figure 2

Trends in Provincial/Territorial Adult Average Daily Count, 1986/87 to 2000/01

Number



Note: British Columbia changed its reporting practices in 1999/00 to include other/ temporary detention in remand. New Brunswick data for 2000/01 are extracted from a new operational system, therefore caution is recommended when making comparisons over time.

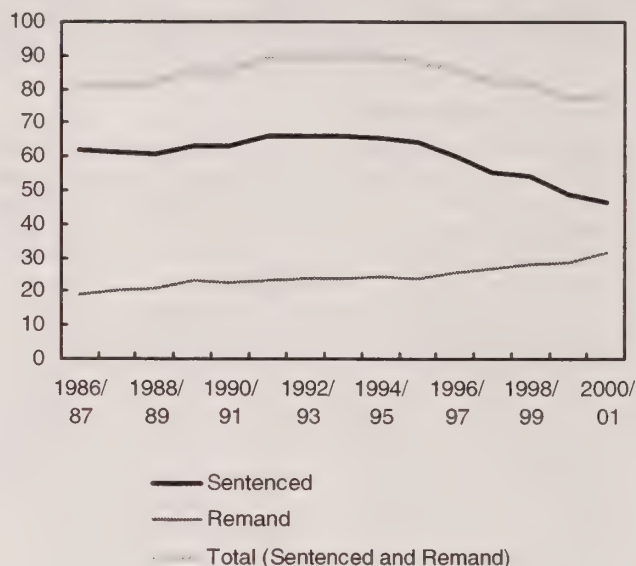
Source: Adult Correctional Services Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

In total there were an average of 78 persons (46 sentenced, 31 remand) per 100,000 adult population in provincial/territorial custody in 2000/01. While the overall provincial/territorial incarceration rate⁸ is relatively consistent with that of 1986/87, there has been substantial variation over this period (see Figure 3). The rate's peak (90) was recorded in 1992/93 and has been generally declining since. While the rate for sentenced custody follows the same overall trend, the remand rate has been increasing steadily – the rate of 31 in 2000/01 represents an increase of 66% from 1986/87 (19).

Figure 3

Trends in Provincial/Territorial Incarceration Rates¹ per 100,000 Adults, 1986/87 to 2000/01

Incarceration rate per 100,000 adults



¹ Incarceration rates are based on the average daily count of adults in provincial/ territorial custody (excluding non-remand temporary detention such as immigration detainees and police lock-ups) per 100,000 adult population.

Source: Adult Correctional Services Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

Adult Admissions to Remand Increased 75% since 1986/87

Since 1986/87, not only has the number of admissions to custody on remand increased, the proportion of provincial admissions due to remands, has greatly increased (see Figure 4). For example, since 1986/87, the proportion of admissions due to remands has steadily increased from 37% to almost 60% in 2000/01. Remand admissions increased while sentenced admissions dropped. The number of sentenced admissions reached a peak of nearly 122,000 in 1992/93, and has steadily decreased since then to just under 81,000 in 2000/01⁹. In contrast, remand admissions increased 75% from almost 68,000 in 1986/87 to over 114,000 in 1991/92 and have remained relatively consistent since.

Admission rate per 10,000 adults charged allows an examination of change in admissions taking into account changes in the crime rate. In 2000/01 there were almost 3,900 adults

⁷ Prior to 1986/87, age requirements were not uniform across jurisdictions, and therefore analysis of trends prior to 1986/87 has not been performed.

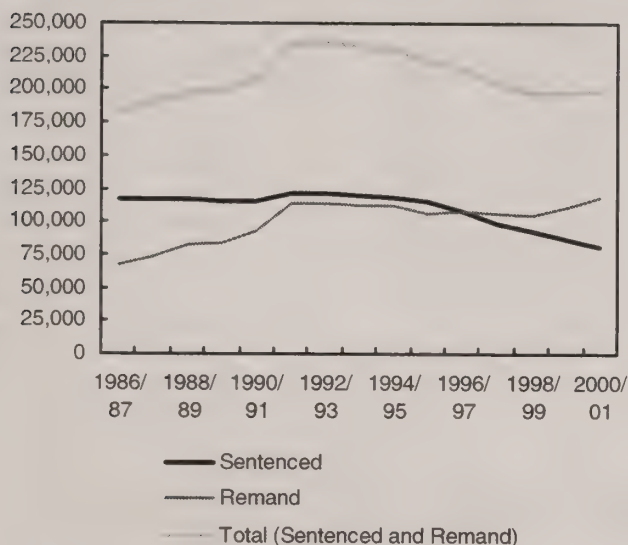
⁸ Incarceration rates are based on the average daily counts of provincial/ territorial custody per 100,000 population. 'Other temporary detention', such as immigration holds and police lock-ups, are excluded from the overall rate.

⁹ A recent important development influencing sentencing trends has been the implementation of conditional sentences, which has had the effect of reducing the sentenced custody population. This is discussed more thoroughly later in this Juristat.

Figure 4

Trends in Adult Admissions to Provincial/Territorial Correctional Institutions, 1986/87 to 2000/01

Number



Note: British Columbia changed its reporting practices to include other/temporary detentions in 1999/00. New Brunswick admissions are excluded from sentenced custody, remand and other temporary detention in 2000/01. Also, all New Brunswick data in 2000/01 and Manitoba custody data for 1999/00 and 2000/01 are extracted from new operational systems, therefore caution is recommended when making comparisons over time.

Source: Adult Correctional Services Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

admitted to provincial/territorial custody per 10,000 adults charged. Of these, approximately 1,570 were sentenced and 2,300 were remands. While the combined provincial/territorial admission rate per 10,000 adults charged has remained relatively stable since 1994/95, the sentenced rate has decreased in recent years. In contrast, the remand admission rate has been increasing steadily since 1986/87 and has been higher than the sentenced admission rate per 10,000 adults charged since 1997/98, the first full year in which the conditional sentencing option was available to courts (see Figure 5). Since 1990/91 the remand rate has increased from almost 1,490 to 2,300 in 2000/01, an increase of 55%. Sentenced admission rates were relatively stable between 1986/87 and 1995/96. Since this time, however, rates have dropped considerably, declining 25% between 1995/96 and 2000/01.

Adult Jurisdictional Profile

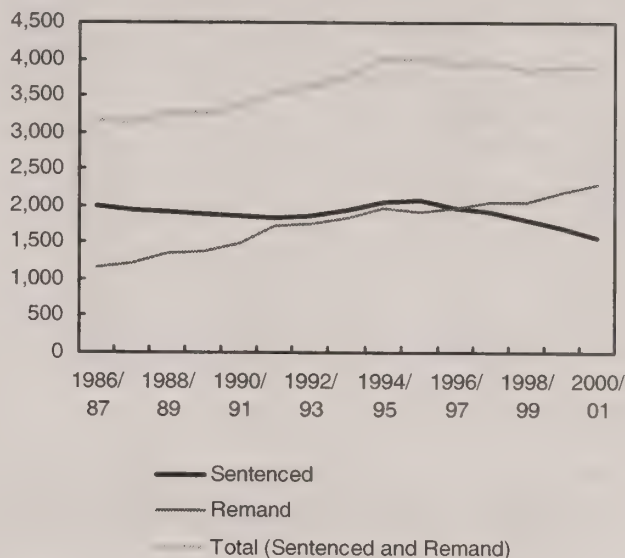
Admissions to Remand Increased in Eight Jurisdictions

In all jurisdictions, admissions to sentenced custody decreased from 1991/92 to 2000/01¹⁰ (see Text Table 2). In contrast, in most jurisdictions (Newfoundland and Labrador, Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Ontario, Saskatchewan, British Columbia, Yukon) admissions to remand increased

Figure 5

Trends in Provincial/Territorial Admission Rates per 10,000 Charged, 1986/87 to 2000/01

Admission rate per 10,000 adults Charged



Source: Adult Correctional Services Survey and Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

during the same time period. Large percentage increases in the number of offenders admitted to custody on remand were found in Prince Edward Island (96%), Saskatchewan (69%) and British Columbia (111%). However, two jurisdictions (Québec and Alberta) experienced declines of approximately 30% in the number of admissions to remand from 1991/92 to 2000/01.

Remand, as a proportion of all admissions, has been generally increasing, although there has been some variability in most jurisdictions. In 1991/92, remand accounted for roughly half of the admissions only in Québec, Ontario, and Manitoba. In comparison, in 2000/01, remand accounted for half or more of admissions in Nova Scotia, Québec, Ontario, Manitoba¹¹, Saskatchewan, British Columbia, Yukon and Nunavut.

Remand Daily Count Doubled since 1991/92 in Four Jurisdictions

Average daily count statistics provide a slightly different view of the remand trends over time. In 2000/01, there were over 7,400 adults remanded to custody in Canada on any one day, approximately half of which were being held in Ontario (3,700). Between 1991/92 and 2000/01, increases were recorded in all jurisdictions except for Prince Edward Island and Québec,

¹⁰ Due to gaps in data, the admission trends of Northwest Territories were not examined. Given major system development work in Manitoba, there are some comparability issues with respect to data for 1999/00 against earlier years and, therefore, trends only up until 1998/99 were examined in this section.

¹¹ Refers to 1998/99 value.

Text Table 2

Adult Remand Admission as a Proportion of Total¹ Provincial/Territorial Custodial Admissions, 1991/92 and 2000/01

Remand Admissions

| Jurisdiction | 1991/92 | | 2000/01 | | 1991/92 to 2000/01 | |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------|----------------|-----------------------|----------------|--------------------|----------------|
| | % of Total Admissions | No. | % of Total Admissions | No. | % Difference | No. Difference |
| Newfoundland and Labrador | 9.77 | 264 | 29.13 | 388 | 46.97 | 124 |
| Prince Edward Island | 5.98 | 90 | 23.10 | 176 | 95.56 | 86 |
| Nova Scotia | 43.12 | 1,622 | 51.98 | 1,758 | 8.38 | 136 |
| New Brunswick ² | 17.89 | 878 | 37.40 | 1,301 | 48.23 | 423 |
| Quebec | 64.41 | 37,246 | 63.55 | 26,063 | -30.02 | -11,183 |
| Ontario | 49.76 | 44,479 | 62.73 | 52,179 | 17.31 | 7,700 |
| Manitoba ³ | 61.66 | 5,946 | 70.57 | 6,955 | .. | .. |
| Saskatchewan | 43.20 | 5,664 | 74.79 | 9,548 | 68.57 | 3,884 |
| Alberta | 33.37 | 11,340 | 35.50 | 8,179 | -27.87 | -3,161 |
| British Columbia | 36.24 | 5,760 | 56.14 | 12,185 | 111.55 | 6,425 |
| Yukon | 41.50 | 210 | 50.67 | 302 | 43.81 | 92 |
| Northwest Territories ⁴ | 24.34 | 315 | 43.89 | 628 | .. | .. |
| Nunavut | .. | .. | 47.24 | 205 | .. | .. |
| Total⁵ | 48.53 | 113,814 | 59.43 | 118,566 | 4.18 | 4,752 |

Note: The method of calculation of admission to custody can be different from one province to another. Thus, inter-jurisdictional comparisons should be made with caution. Remand admissions for Nova Scotia and Saskatchewan exclude offenders admitted on remand and who were later sentenced, and therefore underestimates the number of person admitted on remand.

.. not available for a specific reference period.

¹ Total includes admissions to remand and to provincial/territorial sentenced custody.

² New Brunswick - The distribution by status for 'sentenced admissions', 'remand' and 'other temporary detention' data, is unavailable for 2000/01. New Brunswick figures for 2000/01 were unavailable, therefore 1999/00 figures were used.

³ Manitoba - Given major system development work leading to a change in the source of these data, there are some comparability issues with respect to Manitoba data from 1999/00 against earlier years. Accordingly, comparisons using these data are strongly cautioned.

⁴ Northwest Territories - Large decreases are due to the creation of Nunavut Territory April 1, 1999. Accordingly, comparisons using these data are strongly cautioned.

⁵ Total values for 2000/01 do not include New Brunswick.

Source: Adult Correctional Services Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

which decreased slightly (see Text Table 3). In contrast, all jurisdictions had decreases in the number of sentenced offenders in custody from 1991/92 to 2000/01. Nationally, the number of sentenced offenders in custody decreased by 21% over this time period while the number of remanded adults in custody increased by 50%.

The largest percentage increases from 1991/92 to 2000/01 in average daily remand counts were in Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Manitoba and British Columbia, where the average number of adults in custody on remand approximately doubled. However, in Ontario, remands increased by more than 1,400 over this period, approximately 63% higher. This increase accounted for more than half of the total national increase in remands from 1991/92 to 2000/01.

Expressed as a proportion of the total custodial caseload, approximately 40% of the average daily inmate population in 2000/01 was on remand. This is an increase from 26% in 1991/92. This proportion increased in all jurisdictions except for Prince Edward Island, where a small decrease occurred. For example, the proportion of persons on remand increased from 25% to 47% in Manitoba, from 14% to 33% in Nova Scotia, and from 31% to 50% in Ontario. On average, in 2000/01 almost half of all adults in custody in Ontario and Manitoba

were on remand, while approximately one-third were on remand in Nova Scotia, Québec, Alberta, British Columbia, Yukon and Nunavut.

Factors Contributing to Remand Trends

Although the law governing pre-trial detention is uniform across Canada, its application takes place within various local administrative contexts across jurisdictions. Administrative practices will vary across jurisdictions and over time. Furthermore, the legislation governing remand is subject to revision and to interpretative change as a function of evolving case law. As such, statistics reflecting the prevalence of remands will not only be influenced by the crime rate, but also by changes in administrative factors and changes in the laws governing remand and/or their interpretation.

The issue of the increasing use of custodial remand affects the administration of both adult and youth corrections. However, the capacity to analyze this issue as it pertains to youth corrections is very limited due primarily to gaps in data availability. The analysis in this Juristat focuses primarily on adult remand in the context of such factors as crime trends, court processing trends, the use of "time served" sentences, duration of remand, and legislative changes.

Text Table 3

Adult Remand Daily Count¹ as a Proportion of Total² Provincial/Territorial Custodial Average Daily Count, 1991/92 and 2000/01

| Jurisdiction | Remand | | | | | |
|----------------------------|------------------|--------------|------------------|--------------|--------------------|----------------|
| | 1991/92 | | 2000/01 | | 1991/92 to 2000/01 | |
| | % of Total Count | No. | % of Total Count | No. | % Difference | No. Difference |
| Newfoundland and Labrador | 8.76 | 31 | 19.40 | 54 | 74.42 | 23 |
| Prince Edward Island | 14.81 | 16 | 11.67 | 10 | -39.81 | -6 |
| Nova Scotia ³ | 14.14 | 56 | 32.93 | 109 | 94.64 | 53 |
| New Brunswick ⁴ | 8.85 | 36 | 25.82 | 71 | 97.22 | 35 |
| Quebec | 37.23 | 1,245 | 37.30 | 1,197 | -3.90 | -49 |
| Ontario | 31.00 | 2,270 | 49.75 | 3,700 | 63.00 | 1,430 |
| Manitoba ⁵ | 24.82 | 238 | 46.59 | 520 | 118.49 | 282 |
| Saskatchewan | 13.61 | 179 | 26.90 | 304 | 69.83 | 125 |
| Alberta ⁶ | 19.64 | 477 | 30.48 | 580 | 21.59 | 103 |
| British Columbia | 25.70 | 367 | 35.46 | 811 | 120.98 | 444 |
| Yukon | 16.67 | 14 | 34.34 | 18 | 30.21 | 4 |
| Northwest Territories | 6.95 | 18 | 14.66 | 28 | 55.56 | 10 |
| Nunavut | .. | .. | 29.29 | 26 | .. | .. |
| Total | 26.21 | 4,947 | 40.41 | 7,428 | 50.14 | 2,481 |

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding.

.. not available for a specific reference period

¹ Counts are reported as average daily counts unless otherwise noted.

² Total includes remand and provincial/territorial sentenced custody counts.

³ Nova Scotia - The average for month-end counts was used.

⁴ 'On-register counts' for 1999/00 include provincial inmates (73) transferred to federal institutions through the New Brunswick/Canada Initiative, effective April 1, 1998. 'On-register counts' for 2000/01 include provincial inmates (75) transferred to federal institutions through the New Brunswick/Canada Initiative.

⁵ Sentenced counts include parole suspensions. Also note that due to system problems Manitoba was unable to break down the counts of Remand and Other/temporary detention for 1999/00. The total has been put under remand since in the past Other/temporary detention only accounted for roughly 1% of the total.

⁶ The average number of inmates over 262 days was used.

Source: Adult Correctional Services Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

Text Box 5 - Youth Correctional Services

Statistical Overview

Data on youth between the ages of 12 and 17 who are sentenced to a period of open or secure custody, remanded to custody awaiting trial, or under another temporary detention are included in this section. It is important to note that gaps in the data limit the ability to perform time series analysis and do not provide a complete national picture.

In 2000/01, a total of approximately 25,000¹² young offenders were admitted to custody, of which over 15,000 (60%) were on remand and almost 10,000 youths were admitted to sentenced custody. Due to missing data¹³, a national average daily count of youth in custody is not available. However, in 2000/01, remands accounted for an average of 23% to 40% of youths in custody in Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Alberta, British Columbia, Yukon and Nunavut, approximately 15% to 20% in Newfoundland and Labrador, Prince Edward Island, and Nova Scotia; and 10% or less in the Northwest Territories and New Brunswick.

Historical Trends

Among those jurisdictions where average counts data are consistently available, the proportion of remanded youth among all youth in custody has increased since the early 1990's, from 18% in 1991/92 to 25% in 2000/01 (see Text Table 4). However, while the average daily count of remanded youth increased in the years 1991/92 (350) to 1997/98 (480), it has since decreased slightly. It is important to note that these data exclude Québec, and 12 to 15 year olds in Ontario.

The totals and proportions of youth on remand have also varied across jurisdictions and over time. For example, in Manitoba and Saskatchewan, both the total number of remanded youth and their overall proportion of all persons in custody have increased. In Manitoba, the average count of remands increased from 77 in 1991/92 to 104 in 2000/01, and proportionally from 27% to 38%. In Saskatchewan average counts increased from 51 in 1991/92 to 79 in 2000/01 and proportionally from 16% to 23%. In Alberta and British Columbia, counts of remanded youths decreased; however, their relative proportion actually increased - from 26% in 1991/92 to 31% in 2000/01 in Alberta, and from 16% in 1991/92 to approximately 28% from 1997/98 onward in British Columbia.

In 2000/01, the youth incarceration rate was 180 youth per 100,000 youth population, an overall decrease of 19% from 1991/92 (excludes Québec and Ontario). In general, the sentenced youth incarceration rate has been decreasing since the peak of 202 in 1994/95 to 135 in 2000/01 (see Text Table 4). In 2000/01 the remand incarceration rate was 45 per 100,000 youths, having ranged from 38 to 49 over the ten-year time period.

Data for youth custodial admissions¹⁴ indicate that admissions overall have been decreasing, although to a lesser extent for remand than for sentenced custody (see Text Table 5). From 1997/98 to 2000/01¹⁵, admissions to remand decreased by 8% whereas admissions to sentenced custody decreased by 18%. While remand admissions continue to account for more than half of all youth admissions to custody, their relative proportion has increased only slightly. In 2000/01, 60% of youths admitted to custody were admitted to remand, up from 57% in 1997/98.

In 2000/01, the proportion of admissions to remand exceeded 50% in Ontario¹⁶, Manitoba, Alberta, British Columbia and Yukon (see Text Table 6). The rate of remand per 10,000 youth charged ranged from approximately 630 in New Brunswick to approximately 2,500 in Manitoba and Nunavut in 2000/01. Consistent with adult trends, the overall remand rate exceeded the sentenced custody rate in 2000/01. However, this trend held true for only five jurisdictions: Ontario, Manitoba, Alberta, British Columbia, and Yukon, whereas the sentenced custody rate exceeded the remand rate in Newfoundland and Labrador, Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Northwest Territories and Nunavut, while the sentenced and remand rates were approximately equal in Québec.

¹² All youth admissions data exclude Ontario 12-15 year olds and Saskatchewan.

¹³ Ontario remand/temporary detention data for 12-15 year olds are not available while sentenced open and secure custody data for 12-15 year olds are not available from January 1995. Therefore, Ontario data are excluded from all calculations. Québec data are not available from 1995/96 forward and therefore, all Québec data are excluded.

¹⁴ Due to gaps, youth data for Ontario 12-15 year olds and Saskatchewan are excluded from all calculations.

¹⁵ Youth admissions data only available from 1997/98 onwards.

¹⁶ Due to data gaps, excludes 12 to 15 year olds.

Text Table 4

Average Count of Young Offenders in Custody, 1991/92 to 2000/01

| | Secure Custody | Open Custody | Remand/Temp Detention | Total In-count | % Remand of Total Count | Incarceration rate per 100,000 youth | | |
|----------------------|----------------|--------------|-----------------------|----------------|-------------------------|--------------------------------------|-----------|------------------------------|
| | | | | | | Remand | Sentenced | Total (Sentenced and Remand) |
| 1991/92 | 717 | 907 | 354 | 1,976 | 17.91 | 39.75 | 182.36 | 222.11 |
| 1992/93 | 768 | 885 | 347 | 1,996 | 17.38 | 38.50 | 183.42 | 221.92 |
| 1993/94 | 850 | 964 | 396 | 2,207 | 17.94 | 43.36 | 198.64 | 242.00 |
| 1994/95 | 848 | 1,024 | 436 | 2,309 | 18.88 | 47.01 | 201.82 | 248.83 |
| 1995/96 | 776 | 1,025 | 449 | 2,249 | 19.96 | 47.60 | 190.91 | 238.51 |
| 1996/97 | 776 | 1,020 | 467 | 2,264 | 20.63 | 48.56 | 186.76 | 235.33 |
| 1997/98 | 735 | 886 | 481 | 2,103 | 22.87 | 49.34 | 166.29 | 215.64 |
| 1998/99 | 706 | 841 | 464 | 2,012 | 23.06 | 47.28 | 157.64 | 204.93 |
| 1999/00 ¹ | 638 | 813 | 437 | 1,884 | 23.20 | 44.51 | 147.69 | 192.20 |
| 2000/01 ² | 570 | 757 | 444 | 1,766 | 25.14 | 45.26 | 135.26 | 180.52 |

Note: All values exclude Ontario and Quebec. Due to rounding, figures may not add to totals.

¹ Includes Manitoba estimates.

² New Brunswick secure custody counts are daily counts while open custody counts are weekly counts.

Source: Corrections Key Indicator Report for Adults and Young Offenders and Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

Text Table 5

Youth Admissions to Correctional Services, 1997/98 to 2000/01

| Jurisdiction | Year | Total Custody | Custody Type | | % of total admissions which are due to remand |
|-------------------------|---------|---------------|--------------|--------------------------------|---|
| | | | Remand | Sentenced Custody ¹ | |
| Total admissions | 1997/98 | 28,510 | 16,326 | 12,184 | 57.26 |
| | 1998/99 | 25,992 | 15,278 | 10,714 | 58.78 |
| | 1999/00 | 25,577 | 14,860 | 10,717 | 58.10 |
| | 2000/01 | 25,033 | 15,055 | 9,978 | 60.14 |

Note: Ontario 12-15 year olds and Saskatchewan excluded from all calculations.

¹ Includes open and secure custody.

Source: Youth Custody and Community Services Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

Text Table 6

Youth Admissions to Correctional Services per Jurisdiction, 2000/01

| Jurisdiction | Sentenced ¹ No. | Remand No. | % Remand of Total Admissions | Rates per 10,000 Youth Charged | |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------|------------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------|
| | | | | Sentenced | Remand |
| Newfoundland and Labrador | 329 | 211 | 39.07 | 1,578.69 | 1,012.48 |
| Prince Edward Island | 54 | 47 | 46.53 | 1,692.79 | 1,473.35 |
| Nova Scotia | 369 | 303 | 45.09 | 1,117.84 | 917.90 |
| New Brunswick ² | 411 | 194 | 32.07 | 1,338.33 | 631.72 |
| Quebec | 2,044 | 2,021 | 49.72 | 1,663.01 | 1,644.29 |
| Ontario ³ | 3,301 | 5,693 | 63.30 | 1,412.82 | 2,436.59 |
| Manitoba | 478 | 2,077 | 81.29 | 592.68 | 2,575.33 |
| Saskatchewan | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| Alberta | 1,429 | 2,406 | 62.74 | 954.58 | 1,607.21 |
| British Columbia | 1,209 | 1,946 | 61.68 | 930.07 | 1,497.04 |
| Yukon | 53 | 63 | 54.31 | 1,280.19 | 1,521.74 |
| Northwest Territories | 206 | 39 | 15.92 | 4,478.26 | 847.83 |
| Nunavut | 95 | 55 | 36.67 | 4,418.60 | 2,558.14 |
| Total⁴ | 9,978 | 15,055 | 60.14 | 1,151.72 | 1,614.86 |

Note: Due to rounding, figures may not add to totals.

.. not available for a specific reference period

¹ Includes open and secure custody.

² New Brunswick: Secure custody counts are daily counts; open custody counts are weekly counts.

³ Ontario: Remand/Temporary detention data for 12-15 year olds are not available. Remand, sentenced admissions and admission rates per 10,000 charged are for 16-17 year olds only. Youth (16-17 year olds only) charges estimate based upon UCR2 data.

⁴ Excludes Ontario 12-15 year olds and Saskatchewan.

Source: Youth Custody and Community Services Survey and Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

Crime Trends

Crime rates have generally been dropping over the last decade (Savoie, 2002). For example, the adult charge rate in 2001 was approximately 2,240, a decrease of 27% since 1992 (3,060). Given this trend, it is no surprise that the number of offenders admitted to custody between 1992/93 and 1998/99 steadily decreased, primarily driven by annual decreases in sentenced custody. In spite of this trend, frequencies in the number of offenders admitted to remand have been increasing, especially since 1998/99 (+13% over this time period). While there have been fluctuations since 1990/91, total admissions to remand increased by 29%, from 92,102 to 118,566 while sentenced custody decreased by roughly the same amount, from 114,869 to 80,928. Note however that recent large decreases in sentenced custody admissions coincide with the implementation in September 1996 of the conditional sentence option¹⁷; an alternative to sentenced custody (see Key Legislative changes section that follows).

Admission frequencies are often expressed as a rate based on the number of persons charged in order to take into account changing crime rates. For example, the rate of admissions to remand per 10,000 adults charged has been generally increasing steadily since 1986/87, reaching its peak of approximately 2,300 in 2000/01 (see Figure 5). However, the rate for sentenced custody remained relatively stable between 1986/87 and 1995/96 and has been decreasing steadily since 1995/96, to its low of approximately 1,570 in 2000/01. In fact, after 1996/97, the remand rate actually began to exceed that of sentenced custody. It should be noted that although some of the decrease in sentenced custody is due to the implementation of conditional sentencing, the combined rate for conditional sentencing and sentenced custody was still less than that of remand in 1999/00 (2,005) and 2000/01 (1,900) (see Table 2).

Remand and Violent Crime

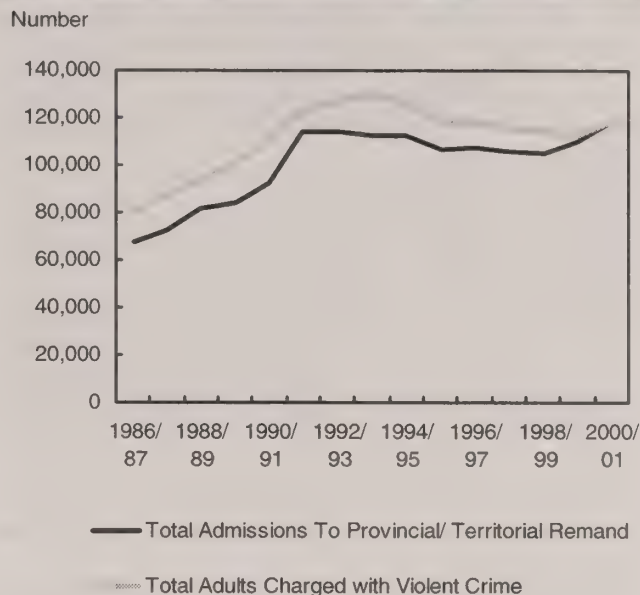
A closer examination of the nature of the change in the crime rate provides some insight into why remand rates may be increasing in spite of a decrease in crime. Persons on remand are more likely to have been incarcerated for crimes against the person, or especially violent offences, than sentenced offenders (43% vs. 31%) (Gilmour, 1999). One explanation for the diverging trends and the increase in remands despite the crime rate decrease may relate to the fact that the declining crime rate has occurred disproportionately in the area of property crime. Between 1992 and 2001, the violent crime rate declined by 9%, while the property crime rate declined by 32% from 1992 to 2001, and the rate for 'Other Criminal Code' offences decreased by 18% between 1992 and 1999 with slight increases in 2000 and 2001. As a result, while crime has generally been decreasing, overall trends in the use of remand may be driven in part by a relative increase in the overall proportion of criminal activity that is violent¹⁸. For example, when comparing trends in remand admissions with those of adults charged with violent crime, similar patterns emerge (see Figure 6).

Court Processing

Recent reports¹⁹ have indicated that the number of days required to process court cases has been increasing, affecting remand length of stay and, by extension, average daily remand counts. Between 1996/97 and 2000/01, the overall median

Figure 6

Trends in Adult Admissions to Remand and Total Adults Charged with Violent Crime, 1986/87 to 2000/01



Source: Adult Correctional Services Survey and Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

elapsed time from first to last appearance increased 9% from 80 to 87 days. Further, violent crime is more often the most serious offence type for remands compared to sentenced offenders. This is important since violent crime takes longer to process than non-violent crime and the overall levels of violent crime have not been decreasing as quickly as non-violent crime. In 2000/01, the median elapsed time to process cases of violent crime was 126 days, an increase of 7% from 1996/97. In comparison, the median elapsed time to process cases for property-related crime was 84 days in 2000/01.

For youth cases, no clear pattern over time in median elapsed court processing time to process youth has been observed. However, similar to the adult court findings, violent crime takes longer to process in youth court (104 days) than non-violent offences, such as property crime (64 days).

Another factor that can extend the length of stay is the possibility of being remanded prior to the initial court appearance. This

¹⁷ See Hendrick, D., Martin, M., & Greenberg, P. (2003). *Conditional Sentencing in Canada: A Statistical Profile 1997-2001*. Catalogue no. 85-560-XIE. Ottawa, Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics.

¹⁸ It should be noted that, while the remand trend tends to follow closely the trend for violent crime, approximately 60% of adults charged with violent crime in 2001 were charged with assault level 1, generally deemed to be the least serious of the violent offence types.

¹⁹ Pereira, J. and Craig Grimes 2002. "Case Processing in Criminal Courts, 1999/00". *Juristat*, Catalogue no. 85-002-XIE Vol. 22, No. 1. Ottawa, Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice; Thomas, M. 2002. "Adult Court Statistics, 2000/01". *Juristat*, Catalogue no. 85-002-XIE Vol. 22, No. 2. Ottawa, Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics.

situation may arise because the justice of the peace, required to adjudicate the bail hearing, may not be available thereby resulting in delays and prolonging the time in custody. In addition, the unavailability of a justice of the peace could also increase the likelihood of being remanded to custody. That is, if a justice of the peace is unavailable, accused persons may automatically be detained pending their initial court appearance. While certain jurisdictions have identified this as an issue, there are no available data that can address the extent to which delays in bail hearings have affected lengths of stay in pre-trial detention.

Use of 'Time Served' Sentences

During sentencing, a court may take into account 'time served', that is, any time spent in custody while awaiting completion of the case (Criminal Code of Canada, Section 719(3)). While there is no mechanical formula for crediting pre-sentence custody, in general, two month's credit for each month spent in pre-sentence custody is often considered appropriate due to the harshness of pre-trial custody (Martin's Criminal Code, 2003). However, decisions as to the actual amount of credited time remain within the discretion of the sentencing judges. A sentence of 'time served' may be given during final sentencing when it is determined that the individual has served a sufficient amount of time in custody for his/her convicted offences and therefore is released at court.

Some have suggested that the use of and length of 'time served' sentences may be affecting trends in sentenced admissions to custody. In order to address this hypothesis, adult court data for the fiscal years 1998/99 to 2000/01 were examined in three jurisdictions where time served data were available: Newfoundland and Labrador, Ontario and Alberta. Among these three jurisdictions in 2000/01, the percentage of sentences that were 'time served' ranged from approximately 2% (236 in Alberta) to approximately 6% (2,708 in Ontario). From 1998/99 to 2000/01 the number of time served sentences appear to have increased in all three jurisdictions.

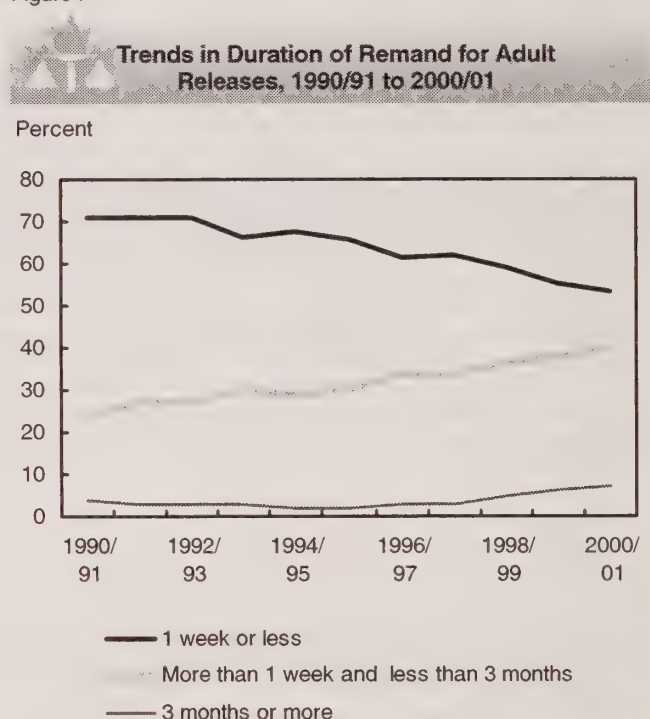
Since offenders receiving 'time served' sentences are released at court and do not return to custody they therefore do not become part of the sentenced custody caseload of the corrections system. Instead, the concluding status of these offenders would remain remand. Increases in the prevalence of 'time served' sentences will therefore contribute to a decrease in the sentenced custody caseload numbers relative to the remand caseload. The slight increase in 'time served'

sentences shown in the court data suggests that this factor may be contributing to the decrease in the proportion of the corrections population that are sentenced.

Time Spent on Remand Increasing

As indicated, the amount of time spent while on remand affects the average daily count statistics. From 1990/91 to 2000/01, the percentage of adult remand releases who had spent one week or less decreased while those spending more than one week increased (see Figure 7). For youth cases, the proportion of youth releases spending more than one week in custody has slightly increased since 1997/98 (see Text Table 7). These results are consistent with recent statistics on case processing time.

Figure 7



Source: Adult Correctional Services Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

Text Table 7

| Trends in Duration of Remand for Youth Releases, 1997/98 to 2000/01 | | | | | | | | |
|---|---------|----------------|------|--------------------|------|-----------------------|-----|---------|
| Jurisdiction | Year | 1 week or less | | 1 week to 6 months | | Greater than 6 months | | Unknown |
| | | No. | % | No. | % | No. | % | |
| Total Releases | 1997/98 | 7,851 | 55.8 | 6,108 | 43.4 | 109 | 0.8 | 3 |
| | 1998/99 | 6,761 | 52.5 | 5,998 | 46.6 | 111 | 0.9 | 0 |
| | 1999/00 | 5,401 | 50.5 | 4,956 | 46.3 | 65 | 0.6 | 277 |
| | 2000/01 | 7,069 | 52.4 | 6,291 | 46.7 | 119 | 0.9 | 1 |

Source: Youth Custody and Community Services Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

Text Box 6 - "Deinstitutionalization" and Displacement of Mental Health Cases to the Criminal Justice System

Deinstitutionalization of mental health cases from psychiatric and general hospitals in Canada has been occurring since the 1980s (Randhawa and Riley, 1996). Deinstitutionalization refers to a concerted effort by the mental health system to find community-based alternatives to psychiatric hospitalization. Some hypothesize that one of the side effects of this deinstitutionalization is an increase in persons with mental illness coming into contact with the criminal justice system (Arboleda-Florez, Holley and Crisanti, 1996). Furthermore, a significant relationship has been found between homelessness and severe mental disorder (Zapf, Roesch and Hart, 1996). The severely disordered are more likely to be homeless than others who may have less severe disorders and are better able to care for themselves. Since homeless individuals are more visible to police officers, they may be more likely to come to the attention of the criminal justice system. Kellough and Wortley (2002) found that persons without a permanent home address that came into contact with the law were more likely to be denied bail than those with a permanent home, indicating that homeless individuals would be more likely to be remanded to custody.

Studies of the inmate population have indicated that offenders with mental health disorders appear frequently. For example, Corrado and colleagues (2000) found that among 790 men incarcerated in the Vancouver Pretrial Services Centre in August 1989 to July 1990, 16% had a major mental disorder

(cognitive impairment, schizophrenic disorder, major mood [affective] disorder), 86% had a substance abuse disorder, 88% had other mental disorders (anxiety disorders, minor mood [affective] disorders, psycho-somatic [somatization] disorders, eating disorders, sexual disorders, antisocial personality disorder). Text Table 8 presents the prevalence of selected mental disorders of the general Canadian population and two groups of incarcerated offenders in Canada. In general, mental disorders were more prevalent among the correctional samples²⁰. In addition, although comparable Canadian population prevalence rates were not available, antisocial personality disorder and substance abuse disorders were very common for these two correctional samples, consistent with prevalence rates in American correctional samples (Corrado et al., 2000).

Nonetheless, there is a high prevalence of mental illness among incarcerated populations in Canada that may be accounted for in a number of specific ways. According to Arboleda-Florez, Holley and Crisanti (1996), mentally disordered offenders may be arrested at a disproportionately higher rate compared to non-mentally disordered offenders, perhaps due to their greater visibility to police officers, especially if they are homeless. Further, once arrested, mentally ill persons may be more likely to be remanded to custody and/or plead guilty because of an inability to pay for bail or legal representation, or an inability to understand legal representation (Davis, 1992).

²⁰ 1989/90 represents the most recent mental disorder prevalence data that were available for Canadian correctional populations.

Text Table 8

Prevalence of Mental Disorders, Non-correctional and Correctional Populations

| Mental Disorder | Estimates of One-Year Prevalence – Canada ¹ | Lifetime Prevalence of DIS/DSM Diagnoses Vancouver Pretrial, 1989/90 ² | Lifetime Prevalence of DIS Diagnoses Edmonton Remand Centre 1986/87 ³ |
|---------------------------------|--|---|--|
| | % | % | % |
| Mood Disorders | | | |
| Major (Unipolar) depression | 4.1 – 4.6 | 6.0 | 16.7 |
| Bipolar disorder | 0.2 – 0.6 | 4.1 | 4.4 ^a |
| Dysthymia | 0.8 – 3.1 | 7.2 | 10.6 |
| Schizophrenia | 0.3 | 4.5 | 2.2 |
| Anxiety Disorders | 12.2 | 41.1 ^c | 15.6 ^b |
| Antisocial Personality Disorder | N/A | 64.3 | 56.7 |
| Substance Abuse Disorders | | | |
| Alcohol use disorders | N/A | 77.6 | 78.9 |
| Drug use disorders | | 63.7 | 50.6 |

DIS - Diagnostic Interview Schedule (a structured psychodiagnostic interview)

DSM - Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders

^a Manic Episode

^b Anxiety/somatiform disorders – includes panic disorder and phobia (agoraphobia, social phobia, simple phobia)

^c Includes obsessive-compulsive disorder, agoraphobia, social phobia, simple phobia, panic disorder, post traumatic stress disorder, generalized anxiety disorder.

¹ Estimated percentage of the population who have the disorder during any one year period. Source: Health Canada (2002). A Report on Mental Illnesses in Canada. Ottawa, Canada.

² Source: R. R. Corrado, I. Cohen, S. Hart, and R. Roesch (2000). Comparative Examination of the Prevalence of Mental Disorders Among Jailed Inmates in Canada and the United States. *International Journal of Law and Psychiatry*, Vol. 23, No. 5-6, pp. 633-64

³ Source: R. Bland, S. Newman, R. Dyck and H. Orn (1990). Prevalence of psychiatric disorders and suicide attempts in a prison population. *Canadian Journal of Psychiatry*, 35, pp. 407-413.

Effects due to Key Legislative Changes

An important consideration in examining trends in pre-trial detention is whether or not there have been legislative changes that would affect its use. In 1996 and 1997, two important changes were made to the Criminal Code that had the potential to influence remand trends. First, Bill C-41, enacted in

September 1996, introduced 'conditional sentencing' as an alternative to incarceration. Second, Bill C-17, passed in 1997, provided additional discretion with respect to justification for denial of bail – adding a third justification for detaining a person in custody.

Conditional Sentencing

Conditional sentencing was introduced as Section 742 of the Criminal Code, which was part of the enactment of the Sentencing Reform Bill (C-41) in September 1996. Under this new sanction, an offender sentenced to a term of imprisonment of less than two years could be ordered to serve the sentence in the community, subject to the offender's complying with the conditions of the conditional sentence order. The conditions imposed for conditional sentences should be more punitive in the restrictions on liberty (e.g., house arrest) and more onerous than those normally imposed under probation. If a condition of the conditional sentence is violated, a warrant of arrest may be issued and the offender will appear in court. If the court is satisfied that the offender has violated conditions without reasonable excuse, the court may take one of the following actions: (1) take no action; (2) change the optional conditions; (3) suspend the conditional sentence and have the offender serve a portion of the unexpired sentence in custody with the conditional sentence order resuming upon release; or (4) terminate the conditional sentence order and commit to custody until the expiration of the sentence.

Conditional sentences were enacted to respond to concerns over high levels of incarceration in Canada, primarily with respect to sentenced custody and less so for remand. To this end, it would be expected that increased admissions to conditional sentences would coincide with decreased sentenced admissions to provincial/territorial custody (i.e., custodial sentences of less than two years in length). While sentenced custody levels have decreased by 33% since 1991/92, the bulk of the decrease (70%) has occurred after the implementation of conditional sentences (also see Roberts and Gabor, 2003; Hendrick, Martin and Greenberg, 2003). It is interesting to note that remand admissions have generally fluctuated during the 1990's until 1998/99, after which remand admissions increased each year thereafter (a total of 13%). Further, the proportion of custodial admissions represented by remand has increased from 48% in 1991/92 to 59% in 2000/01. However, due to the limitations of aggregate data, it is unclear whether the implementation of conditional sentences has had a direct effect on recent increases in the use of custodial remand.

It is quite possible that the existence of conditional sentences may be having a more direct impact on the frequency of custodial remand due to the possibility of breaches. While the sanction is intended to be a more punitive community-based option, the response on a breach will be more immediate than other community-based sentences such as probation. If the conditions of the conditional sentence are breached, the offender may be immediately remanded to custody pending determination as to whether to take the matter to court or release the person back to the community²¹. A decision would then be made as to whether the individual would spend all or part of the remainder of the sentence in custody. For example, 11% (477) of the 4,352 conditional sentence orders were terminated in Ontario due to breaches, 33% (193) of the 590 conditional sentence orders were terminated in Manitoba for breaches, and 57% (671 of 1,186) of those in Saskatchewan were terminated due to breaches. Of these breaches, 50% (240) in Ontario, 78% (151) in Manitoba and 38% (256) in Saskatchewan resulted in an admission to custody on a temporary basis, or for the duration of the sentence (see Text Table 9).

Justification for remand

Prior to 1997, section 515 (10) of the Criminal Code identified only two grounds for detention: a) to ensure attendance in court and b) because it is in the public interest or for the protection or safety of the public. In 1992 the Supreme Court of Canada ruled that the public interest component of section 515(10)(b) was unconstitutional under section 11(e) of the Charter because it was vague and imprecise and struck it down (*R. v. Morales, supra*). The component addressing protection or the safety of the public was, however, considered to be just cause for denial of bail. Bill C-17 amended this section of the Criminal Code in 1997. The provisions to ensure attendance in court

²¹ Six jurisdictions (Newfoundland and Labrador, New Brunswick, Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, British Columbia) record admissions to custody due to breaches of conditional sentences as remands prior to a judicial decision. Should the judicial decision result in custody time, they are counted as sentenced inmates. Prince Edward Island and Alberta consider those offenders admitted due to a breach of a conditional sentence to be part of the sentenced population.

Text Table 9

Conditional Sentence Outcomes, 2000/01

| | Conditional Sentence Terminations | Conditional Sentence Breaches | | Partial or full remainder of conditional sentence to be served in custody | | |
|--------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------|---|---------------|-------------------|
| | Number | Number | % of Terminations | Number | % of Breaches | % of Terminations |
| Ontario | 4,352 | 477 | 11.0 | 240 | 50.3 | 5.5 |
| Manitoba | 590 | 193 | 32.7 | 151 | 78.2 | 25.6 |
| Saskatchewan | 1,186 | 671 | 56.6 | 256 | 38.2 | 21.6 |
| Total | 6,128 | 1,341 | 21.9 | 647 | 48.2 | 10.6 |

Source: Conditional Sentence Special Study, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

(par. a) and for the protection or the safety of the public (par. b) were retained. A new paragraph, (c) was added permitting detention on the grounds of any other just cause and where "the detention is necessary in order to maintain confidence in the administration of justice having regard to all the circumstances". Thus far, this new paragraph has been determined not to be in violation of the Charter.

The remand admission rate climbed steadily in the early 1990's. The remand admission rate had already been climbing prior to 1992 and, in spite of these legislative changes, continued to rise in a similar manner afterward.

A small additional change was made to the remand legislation in 1999. This legislation ensures that the safety concerns of victims and witnesses are taken into consideration in judicial interim release determinations and in the imposition of conditions in any undertakings given by the accused for judicial interim release. This change could lead to some increases in the number of accused who would be detained in custody post-1999. However, at this time, it is too early to assess the impact of this change.

Conclusion

In general, the use of custodial remand in Canada has been increasing in adult and youth corrections, in numbers, rates, and proportions of total custodial population, although more so for adults than youth. A variety of factors have been examined in order to explain these trends. Adult remand in Canada appears to follow similar trends as those of violent crime. Accordingly, the use of remand appears, at least partially, to be a function of changes in levels of violent crime relative to non-violent crime. Further, violent crime tends to require longer court processing time.

Other factors such as use of time served sentences, increasing duration of remand, implementation of conditional sentences (and conditional sentence breaches), and other legislative changes may have contributed to the increasing numbers of persons in custody on remand. While it is difficult to assess the direct impact of these factors on each jurisdiction, increasing remand admissions and daily counts have generally occurred in most jurisdictions, and therefore continue to have an impact on their operations.

Methodology

Data from several surveys administered and collected by the Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics were utilized in this Juristat: Adult Correctional Services (ACS) Survey, Youth Custody and Community Services (YCCS) Survey, Key Indicator Report (KIR), Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Survey and Adult Criminal Court Survey (ACCS).

Adult Correctional Services Survey (ACS)

The ACS survey collects aggregate caseload and case characteristics information on adult offenders (18 years and over) under provincial/territorial or federal correctional supervision. The data are provided by the various provincial, territorial and federal ministries, departments and agencies that administer correctional services across the country.

Although the ACS survey attempts to standardize the way in which status changes are counted, limitations due to differences among jurisdictions operational systems may restrict uniform application of the definitions in some situations. For this reason, inter-jurisdictional comparisons of the number of admissions should be made with caution. Nevertheless, as a result of consistent counting practices within jurisdictions over time, statements may be made about the trends within each jurisdiction. The ACS survey is conducted annually, on a fiscal-year basis from April 1 to March 31.

Youth Custody and Community Services Survey (YCCS)

The YCCS survey collects both micro and aggregate level data, from provincial and territorial agencies responsible for the delivery of youth corrections and young offender programs. These data are collected annually on a fiscal year basis (April 1 to March 31) since 1997/98. In 2000/01, Newfoundland and Alberta provided case-specific information to the YCCS survey (i.e., micro-level data) that were then used to generate the aggregate level admission counts reported in this Juristat. These respondents represent roughly 13% of the national caseload. The remainder of the reporting jurisdictions provided aggregate counts.

The YCCS survey counts youths admitted to secure custody, open custody, remand, and supervised probation. Admissions are tabulated based on status such that one person commencing remand and then entering sentenced custody followed by probation, will be counted according to each specific status. Admissions are not counted for individuals who are transferred to other facilities without status change. Counting methods may differ across jurisdictions and, as such, inter-jurisdictional comparisons should be made with caution.

Key Indicator Report

Data from the Key Indicator Report measure the average counts of adults and youth in sentenced custody (secure and open custody for youth), custodial remand and probation. The data are collected annually on a fiscal year basis (April 1 to March 31). Jurisdictions submit monthly counts in aggregate format. Average counts include all persons on remand and temporary detention, sentenced offenders, and other offenders who are legally required to be at a facility and are present at the time the count is taken by correctional facility officials.

Adult Criminal Court Survey

The purpose of the Adult Criminal Court Survey (ACCS) is to provide a national database of statistical information on the processing of cases through the adult criminal court system. The survey is designed to collect data on all Criminal Code and other federal statute charges heard in adult criminal courts.

Data suppliers are the provincial and territorial government departments responsible for adult criminal courts. At the time of this report, adult criminal courts in nine provinces and one territory reported to the ACCS. These ten jurisdictions represent approximately 90% of the national adult criminal court caseload.

The primary unit of analysis is the case, which is defined as one or more charges against an individual and disposed of in court on the same day. All case information that is used to define the case is determined by the "most serious offence". The individuals involved are persons 18 years or older at the time of the offence, companies, as well as youths who have been transferred to adult criminal court. With the exception of Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick, Alberta, British Columbia and the Yukon, no data are provided from superior courts. The absence of data from all but five superior court jurisdictions may result in a slight underestimation of the number of incurred sentences imposed across Canada.

The number of cases with prison sentences (ACCS) and the number of admissions to correctional facilities (ACS) differ because the number of sentenced admissions reported by the Adult Correctional Services survey includes persons sentenced to prison in superior courts as well as admissions resulting from fine defaults. In addition, a sentence of "time served" will be shown as a 'remand' in correctional statistics. Note also that correctional service counts are based on aggregate sentences. That is, several court-based sentences may be aggregated into a single admission for sentence administration.

As expected in a census survey, not all data elements are being reported. For this reason, only three jurisdictions to date have provided data on 'time served' sentences: Newfoundland and Labrador, Ontario and Alberta.

Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR1 and UCR2) Survey

This survey measures and publishes annual data on the nature and incidence of crime and traffic enforcement in Canada. Aggregate data (UCR1) on police-reported crime have been collected since 1962 through the UCR Survey. The microdata revised UCR Survey (UCR2) began collecting incident-based data in 1988. The revised survey collects much more detailed offence and accused information and collects victim characteristics in cases of violent offences.

As of December 2001, 154 police forces/detachments were providing incident-based crime data, representing approximately 59% of the national volume of crime. Provincial coverage on UCR2 is currently greatest in Quebec (99%), Ontario (73%), Manitoba (56%), Alberta (53%) and Saskatchewan (52%). National coverage is expected to remain around 60% until such time as the RCMP (28% of national volume of crime) are capable of providing data.

In this *Juristat*, UCR data are used for the examination of crime trends and for the calculation of admission rates per 10,000 adults or youth charged.

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Table 1

Provincial/Territorial Average Count of Adult Offenders in Custody, 1986/87 to 2000/01

| | Total In-Count Prov/Terr Sentenced | Total In-Count Prov/Terr Remand (Not sentenced) | Total In-Count Prov/Terr Sentenced and Remand | Incarceration Rate per 100,000 Adult Population | | |
|----------------------|--|--|--|---|---------------------|--|
| | | | | Prov/Terr Sentenced | Prov/Terr Remand | Total Prov/Terr (Sentenced and Remand) |
| 1986/87 | 12,076 | 3,674 | 15,750 | 62.13 | 18.90 | 81.04 |
| 1987/88 | 12,071 | 3,965 | 16,036 | 61.10 | 20.07 | 81.17 |
| 1988/89 | 12,181 | 4,202 | 16,383 | 60.67 | 20.93 | 81.60 |
| 1989/90 | 12,986 | 4,701 | 17,687 | 63.33 | 22.93 | 86.26 |
| 1990/91 | 13,170 | 4,713 | 17,883 | 63.22 | 22.62 | 85.84 |
| 1991/92 | 13,925 | 4,947 | 18,872 | 66.02 | 23.45 | 89.47 |
| 1992/93 | 14,135 | 5,111 | 19,246 | 66.20 | 23.94 | 90.14 |
| 1993/94 | 14,251 | 5,130 | 19,381 | 65.91 | 23.73 | 89.64 |
| 1994/95 | 14,316 | 5,327 | 19,643 | 65.35 | 24.32 | 89.67 |
| 1995/96 | 14,249 | 5,266 | 19,515 | 64.22 | 23.73 | 87.95 |
| 1996/97 | 13,522 | 5,734 | 19,257 | 60.19 | 25.52 | 85.71 |
| 1997/98 | 12,573 | 6,109 | 18,682 | 55.20 | 26.82 | 82.02 |
| 1998/99 | 12,478 | 6,472 | 18,949 | 54.10 | 28.06 | 82.16 |
| 1999/00 ¹ | 11,421 | 6,665 | 18,086 | 48.91 | 28.54 | 77.44 |
| 2000/01 ² | 10,953 | 7,428 | 18,381 | 46.30 | 31.40 | 77.70 |

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding.

¹ British Columbia changed its reporting practices to include other/temporary detention in remand.

² New Brunswick data for 2000/01 are extracted from a new operational system, therefore caution is recommended when making comparisons over time.

Source: Adult Correctional Services Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

Table 2

Provincial/Territorial and Conditional Sentence Admissions to Adult Correctional Services, Admission Rates per 10,000 adults charged, 1986/87 to 2000/01

| | Total Admis. to Prov/Terr Sentenced | Total Admis. to Prov/Terr Remand (Not sentenced) | Total Admis. to Conditional Sentences | Rates per 10,000 Adults Charged | | | |
|----------------------|--|--|--|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--|---|
| | | | | Prov/Terr Sentenced Admissions | Prov/Terr Remand Admissions | Total Prov/Terr (Sentenced and Remand) | Prov/Terr Sentenced and Cond. Sent. (1997/98 - 2000/01) |
| 1986/87 | 116,229 | 67,638 | ... | 2,000.87 | 1,164.38 | 3,165.25 | ... |
| 1987/88 | 117,325 | 72,638 | ... | 1,936.79 | 1,199.10 | 3,135.90 | ... |
| 1988/89 | 116,051 | 81,847 | ... | 1,916.97 | 1,351.98 | 3,268.95 | ... |
| 1989/90 | 115,265 | 84,114 | ... | 1,891.55 | 1,380.35 | 3,271.89 | ... |
| 1990/91 | 114,869 | 92,102 | ... | 1,853.72 | 1,486.33 | 3,340.05 | ... |
| 1991/92 | 120,733 | 113,814 | ... | 1,826.85 | 1,722.19 | 3,549.04 | ... |
| 1992/93 | 121,817 | 114,262 | ... | 1,866.89 | 1,751.11 | 3,618.00 | ... |
| 1993/94 | 119,789 | 112,373 | ... | 1,940.19 | 1,820.50 | 3,760.69 | ... |
| 1994/95 | 117,938 | 112,671 | ... | 2,047.16 | 1,955.80 | 4,002.96 | ... |
| 1995/96 | 114,562 | 106,467 | ... | 2,069.97 | 1,924.21 | 3,994.18 | ... |
| 1996/97 | 108,003 | 107,911 | ... | 1,972.18 | 1,970.50 | 3,942.68 | ... |
| 1997/98 | 98,628 | 105,698 | 14,608 | 1,917.24 | 2,054.68 | 3,971.92 | 2,201.21 |
| 1998/99 | 93,045 | 104,975 | 14,236 | 1,812.15 | 2,044.49 | 3,856.64 | 2,089.41 |
| 1999/00 ¹ | 86,885 | 111,392 | 15,792 | 1,696.43 | 2,174.95 | 3,871.37 | 2,004.77 |
| 2000/01 ² | 80,928 | 118,566 | 17,084 | 1,569.01 | 2,298.73 | 3,867.74 | 1,900.23 |

... not available for a specific reference period

... not applicable

¹ British Columbia changed its reporting practices to include other/temporary detentions in remand. Manitoba - Given major system development work leading to a change in the source of these data, there are some comparability issues with respect to Manitoba data for 1999/00 against earlier years. Accordingly, comparisons using these data are strongly cautioned.

² New Brunswick admissions are excluded from sentenced custody, remand and other temporary detention in 2000/01. Also, all New Brunswick data in 2000/01 and Manitoba custody data for 1999/00 and 2000/01 are extracted from new operational systems, therefore caution is recommended when making comparisons over time.

Source: Adult Correctional Services Survey, Conditional Sentence Special Study and Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

Table 3

**Total Number of Adult Admissions to Provincial/Territorial Custody,
by Inmate Status, 1991/92 to 2000/01**

| Jurisdiction | 1991/92 | 1992/93 | 1993/94 | 1994/95 | 1995/96 | 1996/97 ¹ | 1997/98 | 1998/99 | 1999/00 | 2000/01 |
|--|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|----------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| Newfoundland and Labrador² | | | | | | | | | | |
| Remand | 264 | 304 | 260 | 254 | 254 | 251 | 276 | 306 | 263 | 388 |
| Sentenced Custody | 2,438 | 2,666 | 2,525 | 2,769 | 2,386 | 1,568 | 1,166 | 1,199 | 936 | 944 |
| Prince Edward Island | | | | | | | | | | |
| Remand | 90 | 67 | 54 | 91 | 93 | 128 | 169 | 134 | 191 | 176 |
| Sentenced Custody | 1,416 | 1,185 | 1,070 | 802 | 993 | 867 | 869 | 803 | 647 | 586 |
| Nova Scotia | | | | | | | | | | |
| Remand | 1,622 | 1,212 | 1,100 | 1,054 | 1,139 | 1,432 | 1,532 | 1,399 | 1,553 | 1,758 |
| Sentenced Custody | 2,140 | 2,542 | 2,743 | 2,748 | 2,622 | 2,113 | 1,914 | 1,964 | 1,825 | 1,624 |
| New Brunswick³ | | | | | | | | | | |
| Remand | 878 | 910 | 914 | 948 | 988 | 1,108 | 1,201 | 1,101 | 1,301 | .. |
| Sentenced Custody | 4,029 | 4,070 | 3,702 | 3,669 | 3,383 | 2,919 | 2,278 | 2,273 | 2,179 | .. |
| Quebec | | | | | | | | | | |
| Remand | 37,246 | 36,776 | 36,314 | 36,321 | 34,167 | 31,325 | 27,681 | 25,342 | 25,814 | 26,063 |
| Sentenced Custody | 20,578 | 23,306 | 24,802 | 25,852 | 28,075 | 28,753 | 26,188 | 21,735 | 18,016 | 14,951 |
| Ontario | | | | | | | | | | |
| Remand | 44,479 | 47,664 | 46,161 | 46,496 | 43,196 | 44,829 | 44,795 | 45,351 | 46,637 | 52,179 |
| Sentenced Custody | 44,906 | 41,934 | 39,861 | 38,823 | 37,110 | 36,530 | 33,971 | 32,815 | 30,747 | 30,999 |
| Manitoba⁴ | | | | | | | | | | |
| Remand | 5,946 | 4,958 | 5,277 | 4,918 | 3,600 | 2,835 | 2,761 | 3,182 | 6,567 | 6,955 |
| Sentenced Custody | 3,697 | 3,587 | 3,140 | 3,036 | 2,433 | 2,069 | 1,439 | 1,393 | 3,284 | 2,901 |
| Saskatchewan | | | | | | | | | | |
| Remand | 5,664 | 5,149 | 5,095 | 5,385 | 5,623 | 6,202 | 6,685 | 7,175 | 8,665 | 9,548 |
| Sentenced Custody | 7,448 | 6,889 | 7,069 | 6,728 | 6,397 | 4,802 | 3,894 | 3,850 | 3,368 | 3,219 |
| Alberta | | | | | | | | | | |
| Remand | 11,340 | 10,601 | 9,666 | 8,912 | 8,618 | 9,359 | 8,294 | 8,298 | 7,784 | 8,179 |
| Sentenced Custody | 22,646 | 23,771 | 22,021 | 19,764 | 18,345 | 16,535 | 14,467 | 15,491 | 14,728 | 14,859 |
| British Columbia⁵ | | | | | | | | | | |
| Remand | 5,760 | 6,058 | 6,934 | 7,653 | 8,533 | 10,189 | 10,897 | 11,076 | 11,602 | 12,185 |
| Sentenced Custody | 10,135 | 10,597 | 11,536 | 12,437 | 12,425 | 11,537 | 10,565 | 9,628 | 9,739 | 9,520 |
| Yukon | | | | | | | | | | |
| Remand | 210 | 215 | 253 | 232 | 256 | 253 | 293 | 318 | 321 | 302 |
| Sentenced Custody | 296 | 324 | 389 | 368 | 393 | 310 | 304 | 300 | 308 | 294 |
| Northwest Territories⁶ | | | | | | | | | | |
| Remand | 315 | 348 | 345 | 407 | .. | .. | 1,114 | 1,293 | 694 | 628 |
| Sentenced Custody | 1,004 | 946 | 931 | 942 | .. | .. | 1,573 | 1,594 | 1,108 | 802 |
| Nunavut | | | | | | | | | | |
| Remand | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 205 |
| Sentenced Custody | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 229 |
| CANADA | | | | | | | | | | |
| Remand | 113,814 | 114,262 | 112,373 | 112,671 | 106,467 | 107,911 | 105,698 | 104,975 | 111,392 | 118,566 |
| Sentenced Custody | 120,733 | 121,817 | 119,789 | 117,938 | 114,562 | 108,003 | 98,628 | 93,045 | 86,885 | 80,928 |

Note: The method of calculation of admission to custody can be different from one province to another. Thus, inter-jurisdictional comparisons should be made with caution. Remand admissions for Nova Scotia and Saskatchewan exclude offenders admitted on remand and who were later sentenced, and therefore underestimates the number of person admitted on remand.

.. not available for any reference period

.. not available for a specific reference period

¹ The conditional sentencing legislation came into effect in September 1996.

² Due to Y2K system problems, the admission data for 1999/00 is estimated.

³ Total admission figures for 1998/99 and 1999/00 are reported on a fiscal year basis, while all profile distributions are calculated using admission data for the calendar year. The distribution by status for 'sentenced admissions', 'remand' and 'other temporary detention' data, is unavailable for 2000/01. Data for 2000/01 are from a new operational system, therefore caution is recommended when comparing 2000/01 to previous years.

⁴ Given major system development work leading to a change in the source of these data, there are some comparability issues with respect to Manitoba data for 1999/00 against earlier years. Accordingly, comparisons using these data are strongly cautioned.

⁵ 'Other/temporary detention' denotes pre-court lock-ups in a correctional facility which is a new category that began in 1999/00.

⁶ Large decreases are due to the creation of Nunavut Territory April 1, 1999.

Source: Adult Correctional Services Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

Table 4

Adult Average Count¹ of Provincial/Territorial Custody, by Inmate Status, 1991/92 to 2000/01

| Jurisdiction | 1991/92 | 1992/93 | 1993/94 | 1994/95 | 1995/96 | 1996/97 ² | 1997/98 | 1998/99 | 1999/00 | 2000/01 |
|--|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|----------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| Newfoundland and Labrador | | | | | | | | | | |
| Remand | 31 | 37 | 34 | 39 | 36 | 32 | 40 | 44 | 44 | 54 |
| Sentenced Custody | 323 | 373 | 346 | 354 | 319 | 275 | 248 | 258 | 222 | 225 |
| Prince Edward Island | | | | | | | | | | |
| Remand | 16 | 16 | 8 | 11 | 11 | 13 | 9 | 9 | 8 | 10 |
| Sentenced Custody | 92 | 99 | 88 | 84 | 96 | 71 | 79 | 73 | 71 | 73 |
| Nova Scotia³ | | | | | | | | | | |
| Remand | 56 | 60 | 73 | 66 | 61 | 78 | 90 | 82 | 96 | 109 |
| Sentenced Custody | 340 | 335 | 363 | 373 | 346 | 318 | 299 | 285 | 247 | 222 |
| New Brunswick⁴ | | | | | | | | | | |
| Remand | 36 | 42 | 46 | 43 | 48 | 54 | 57 | 47 | 61 | 71 |
| Sentenced Custody | 371 | 414 | 410 | 376 | 353 | 339 | 319 | 274 | 244 | 204 |
| Quebec | | | | | | | | | | |
| Remand | 1,245 | 1,287 | 1,217 | 1,219 | 1,167 | 1,158 | 1,185 | 1,219 | 1,114 | 1,197 |
| Sentenced Custody | 2,099 | 2,269 | 2,328 | 2,334 | 2,303 | 2,267 | 2,117 | 2,102 | 1,993 | 2,011 |
| Ontario | | | | | | | | | | |
| Remand | 2,270 | 2,381 | 2,381 | 2,507 | 2,465 | 2,710 | 2,915 | 3,032 | 3,146 | 3,700 |
| Sentenced Custody | 5,052 | 4,955 | 4,786 | 4,619 | 4,690 | 4,819 | 4,631 | 4,441 | 4,003 | 3,737 |
| Manitoba⁵ | | | | | | | | | | |
| Remand | 238 | 239 | 237 | 237 | 272 | 340 | 332 | 450 | 495 | 520 |
| Sentenced Custody | 721 | 672 | 654 | 703 | 696 | 639 | 570 | 615 | 603 | 596 |
| Saskatchewan | | | | | | | | | | |
| Remand | 179 | 156 | 154 | 164 | 179 | 195 | 219 | 236 | 273 | 304 |
| Sentenced Custody | 1,136 | 1,042 | 1,060 | 1,076 | 1,088 | 980 | 958 | 955 | 854 | 826 |
| Alberta⁶ | | | | | | | | | | |
| Remand | 477 | 472 | 478 | 497 | 466 | 484 | 494 | 525 | 539 | 580 |
| Sentenced Custody | 1,952 | 2,112 | 2,240 | 2,215 | 2,084 | 1,825 | 1,463 | 1,601 | 1,430 | 1,323 |
| British Columbia⁷ | | | | | | | | | | |
| Remand | 367 | 379 | 449 | 487 | 501 | 623 | 703 | 757 | 821 | 811 |
| Sentenced Custody | 1,528 | 1,548 | 1,664 | 1,874 | 1,933 | 1,626 | 1,525 | 1,513 | 1,467 | 1,476 |
| Yukon | | | | | | | | | | |
| Remand | 14 | 16 | 18 | 15 | 21 | 17 | 18 | 22 | 18 | 18 |
| Sentenced Custody | 70 | 64 | 55 | 54 | 63 | 53 | 60 | 52 | 43 | 35 |
| Northwest Territories⁸ | | | | | | | | | | |
| Remand | 18 | 26 | 35 | 42 | 39 | 30 | 47 | 49 | 29 | 28 |
| Sentenced Custody | 241 | 252 | 258 | 255 | 278 | 311 | 304 | 309 | 207 | 163 |
| Nunavut | | | | | | | | | | |
| Remand | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | 20 | 26 |
| Sentenced Custody | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | 36 | 63 |
| CANADA | | | | | | | | | | |
| Remand | 4,947 | 5,111 | 5,130 | 5,327 | 5,266 | 5,734 | 6,109 | 6,472 | 6,665 | 7,428 |
| Sentenced Custody | 13,925 | 14,135 | 14,251 | 14,316 | 14,249 | 13,522 | 12,573 | 12,478 | 11,421 | 10,953 |

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding.

. not available for any reference period

¹ Counts are reported as average daily counts unless otherwise noted.

² The conditional sentencing legislation came into effect in September 1996.

³ The average for month-end counts is used.

⁴ 'On-register counts' for 1999/00 include provincial inmates (73) transferred to federal institutions through the New Brunswick/Canada Initiative, effective April 1, 1998. 'On-register counts' for 2000/01 include provincial inmates (75) transferred to federal institutions through the New Brunswick/Canada Initiative.

⁵ Sentenced counts include parole suspensions. Also note that due to system problems Manitoba was unable to break down the counts of remand and other/temporary detention for 1999/00. The total has been put under remand since in the past other/temporary detention only accounted for roughly 1% of the total.

⁶ The average number of inmates over 262 days was used.

⁷ 'Other/temporary detention' denotes pre-court lock-ups in a correctional facility which is a new category beginning in 1999/00.

⁸ Large decreases are due to the creation of Nunavut Territory April 1, 1999.

Source: Adult Correctional Services Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics

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HOMICIDE IN CANADA, 2002

by Josée Savoie

Highlights

- In 2002, Canadian police services reported 582 homicides, 29 more than the previous year. After having stabilized over a two-year period, the national homicide rate climbed 4% in 2002, to 1.85 homicides per 100,000 population. Previously, the rate had been gradually declining since the mid-1970s.
- The increase in the number of homicides at the national level was driven by a large increase in British Columbia, up from 84 homicides in 2001 to 126 in 2002. Part of this increase is a result of 15 homicides which occurred in Port Coquitlam in previous years being reported by police in 2002.
- As has generally been the case historically, homicide rates were greater in the west than in the east in 2002. Among the provinces, Manitoba recorded the highest rate (3.13 homicides per 100,000 population), followed by British Columbia (3.04) and Saskatchewan (2.67). The lowest rates occurred in Newfoundland and Labrador (0.38), Prince Edward Island (0.71) and Nova Scotia (0.95). In 2002, Quebec recorded a rate of 1.58, its lowest since 1968.
- Among the nine largest metropolitan regions, Winnipeg (3.41) reported the highest homicide rate, followed by Vancouver (3.26), while Quebec (0.44) and Ottawa (0.93) reported the lowest rates. For the 17 mid-sized and smaller metropolitan regions, Saskatoon (3.41) and Gatineau (2.21) recorded the highest homicide rates, while Oshawa, with no homicides, and St. John's (0.57), with 1 homicide, had the lowest.
- In 2002, the rate of homicides committed with the use of a firearm continued to decline, reaching its lowest level since 1966. Firearms were used in one quarter (26%) of all homicides in 2002, the lowest proportion since statistics were first collected in 1961. Handguns still accounted for nearly two thirds of the firearms used in homicide incidents. In 2002, a further 31% of all homicide victims died from a stabbing, 21% of the victims had been beaten to death and 11% were strangled.
- Most homicides were committed by a person known to the victim. Of the homicide cases that were solved in 2002, 44% were perpetrated by an acquaintance, 40% by a family member and 15% by a stranger.
- The spousal homicide rate dropped slightly in 2002 (-3%), following a 25% increase in 2001. Spousal homicides accounted for one out of every five solved homicides and almost half (46%) of all family homicides. In 2002, 84 spousal homicides occurred: 67 women were killed by their husbands, 16 men were killed by their wives and 1 woman was killed by her same-sex partner. In addition to the 84 spousal homicides, there were 98 family-related homicides, including 28 victims who were killed by their fathers and 8 by their mothers.
- In 2002, 42 youths (12 to 17 years) were charged with homicide, 12 more than in 2001. Despite this increase, the number of youths charged was still lower than the past 10-year average (50).
- For a second consecutive year, incidents of homicide between gang members (45) dropped substantially in 2002, with 16 fewer such homicides than in 2001. Quebec accounted largely for this decrease. The number of gang-related homicides more than tripled nationally between 1992 (19) and 2000 (72).
- For incidents in which it was possible to determine that alcohol/drug consumption had been a factor in 2002, police reported that more than half (52%) of all homicide victims and two thirds (68%) of all accused had consumed alcohol and/or drugs at the time of the offence, similar to the pattern observed since 1991.



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INTRODUCTION

Some causes of death are particularly notable for their violence, with suicide and homicide prime examples of this phenomenon. These two causes of death do not, however, occur with the same frequency. Suicide (13.4 per 100,000 population¹) occurs far more commonly than homicide (1.85 per 100,000 population). However, homicide remains of great interest for its gravity and for the fact that it is generally recognized by experts as a barometer of violent crime in a given society.

Using data collected through the Homicide Survey,² this *Juristat* examines short- and long-term trends for the crime of homicide at the national, provincial and territorial level, as well as for census metropolitan areas. Detailed information is also presented on the characteristics of homicide incidents, the victims and the accused.

GENERAL TRENDS

Homicide rate rose in 2002

After having stabilized over the previous two years, the national homicide rate rose 4% in 2002. The 582 homicides (29 more than in the previous year) accounted for 0.02% of the 2.5 million *Criminal Code* incidents that were reported to the police. By comparison, there were 682 attempted murders and approximately 27,000 robberies, 235,000 assaults and over 1 million property offences. British Columbia, which reported a sharp increase in its number of homicides (up 50%, from 84 homicides in 2001 to 126 homicides in 2002), largely accounted for the 2002 increase.³

Since 1961, when national homicide statistics were first collected, two trends have emerged. Following a period of stability between 1961 and 1966 (1.25 per 100,000 population), the homicide rate more than doubled, peaking (3.03) in 1975. Since 1976, despite annual fluctuations, the homicide rate gradually decreased through the late 1990s, when it stabilized at around 1.8 homicides per 100,000 population. In 2002, the homicide rate was 1.85, a 39% drop from the peak in of 1975 (Figure 1).

In 2002, there were 558 incidents, 44 more than in 2001. This increase brought the number of homicide incidents close to the average of 556 that had been recorded over the past decade. The number of incidents was less than the number of victims, since some incidents involved more than one victim.

The homicide rate has remained stable in the United States

Throughout the 1990s, the crime and homicide rates dropped in both Canada and in the United States.⁴ According to preliminary Federal Bureau of Investigation data, following a 2001 increase, the number of major crimes in the United States remained relatively stable in 2002 with respect to the previous year (+0.2%).⁵ The number of homicides also remained relatively stable (+0.8%).

Although the homicide rate increased in Canada in 2002, but not in the United States, Canada's homicide rate was one third that of the United States. However, the Canadian rate was still greater than that of many European nations, such as Switzerland and Germany (Table 1). In 2002, Canada's homicide rate was similar to that of France and Australia⁶.

1. See Mortality, summary list of causes - Shelf tables, 1999, No. 84-209-XPB in the catalogue of Statistics Canada, Health Statistics Division, 2002.
2. For more information on the Homicide Survey, see the Methodology section at the end of this report.
3. Part of this increase is a result of 15 homicides which occurred in Port Coquitlam in previous years being reported by police in 2002. Homicide counts reflect the year in which police file the homicide report, which may not be the year in which they occurred. If these 15 victims were subtracted from the total 2002 count, the number of victims in British Columbia would have increased by 32%.
4. See M. Gannon, Crime comparisons between Canada and the United States, *Juristat*, No. 85-002-XPE in the catalogue of Statistics Canada, Ottawa, vol. 21, No. 11, 2001.
5. United States Department of Justice, Federal Bureau of Investigation, press release, June 16, 2003.
6. Police information provided by the National Central Bureau, Interpol, Ottawa.

Key terminology and definitions

Homicide occurs when a person directly or indirectly, by any means, causes the death of a human being. Homicide is either culpable (murder, manslaughter or infanticide) or non-culpable (not an offence) (*Criminal Code of Canada*, sections 222-240). Deaths caused by criminal negligence, suicide and accidental or justifiable homicide are not included in the Homicide Survey.

Murder occurs when a person intentionally causes the death of another human being, or means to cause bodily harm that the person knows is likely to cause death.

First degree murder occurs when:

- it is planned and deliberate; or
- the victim is a person employed and acting in the course of his/her work for the preservation and maintenance of the public peace (e.g., police officer, correctional worker); or
- the death is caused by a person committing or attempting to commit certain serious offences (e.g., sexual assault, kidnapping, hijacking and criminal harassment).

Second degree murder is all murder that is not first degree.

Manslaughter is culpable homicide that is not murder or infanticide. It is generally considered to be a homicide committed in the heat of passion caused by sudden provocation.

Infanticide occurs when a female causes the death of her newly-born child, if her mind is considered disturbed from the effects of giving birth or effects of lactation.

Incident

An incident is defined as the occurrence of one (or more) criminal offence(s) during one single, distinct event regardless of the number of victims. If there are multiple victims or multiple accused persons, the offences must occur at the **same location** and at the **same time** if they are to be included within the same incident. The incident count will normally be lower than the victim count due to incidents involving multiple victims.

Accused

A person who has been identified as a suspect in an incident and against whom a charge may be laid in connection with that incident.

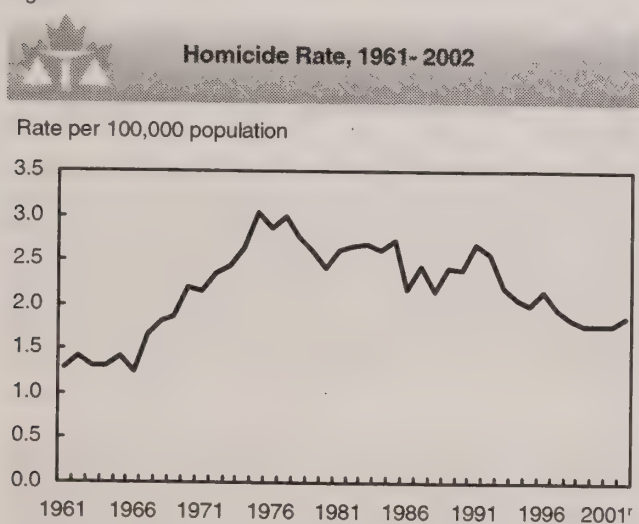
Homicide count

The number of homicides reported in a given year represents the date that homicide became known to police. Typically, some homicides will be included in a given year's totals that occurred in prior years.

Homicide Rate

This technique serves to standardize data to permit comparisons between different geographic regions for different years and for different population sizes. The homicide rate is based on the number of victims per 100,000 population.

Figure 1



^r revised

Source: Homicide Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

GEOGRAPHIC PATTERNS IN HOMICIDES

Homicide rate increases east to west

The overall decline in the national homicide rate since the mid-1970s reflects general declines recorded in many provinces during this period. The rates of the western provinces have been gradually declining, although they generally remain higher than the national rate. On the other hand, Atlantic province rates have remained relatively constant and well below the national level. As such, the homicide rate forms a gradient rising from Eastern to Western Canada.

Table 1

Homicide Rates for Selected Countries, 2002

| Country | Homicide rate per 100,000 |
|-----------------|---------------------------|
| Russia | 20.54 |
| Luxembourg | 9.01 |
| United States | 5.52 |
| Portugal | 2.57 |
| England & Wales | 2.01 |
| Denmark | 1.99 |
| Hungary | 1.99 |
| France | 1.88 |
| Canada | 1.85 |
| Australia | 1.85 |
| Tunisia | 1.20 |
| Switzerland | 1.18 |
| Germany | 1.11 |
| Austria | 0.80 |

Source: National Central Bureau - Interpol Ottawa.

This trend continued in 2002 (Figure 2). Among the provinces, Manitoba posted the highest rate (3.13 homicides per 100,000 population), followed by British Columbia (3.04) and Saskatchewan (2.67). The lowest rates occurred in the Atlantic provinces: Newfoundland and Labrador (0.38), Prince Edward Island (0.71), Nova Scotia (0.95) and New Brunswick (1.19).

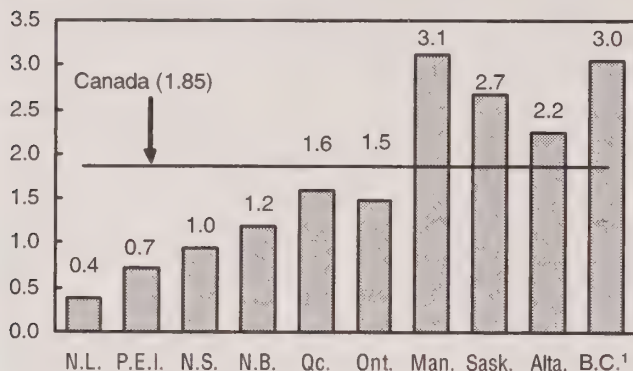
Most provinces remained stable or showed an increase in homicides in 2002 (Table 2). The largest increase occurred in British Columbia (up 50%, with a rise from 84 to 126 homicides).⁷ The only large drop occurred in Quebec (down 16%), which recorded 22 fewer homicides in 2002 than in 2001. Quebec's rate of 1.58 homicides per 100,000 population was its lowest since 1968.

7. See footnote 3.

Figure 2

Homicide Rate by Province, 2002

Rate per 100,000 population



1. The rate for British Columbia includes 15 homicides which occurred in Port Coquitlam in previous years being reported by police in 2002. Homicide counts reflect the year in which police file the homicide report.

Source: Homicide Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

Homicide is more than just an urban phenomenon

Crime, and particularly homicide, is often considered an urban phenomenon. However, historical data show that the homicide rate for non-CMA areas has typically been similar to that of CMAs. In 2002, the homicide rate once again followed this trend. Regions with fewer than 100,000 inhabitants reported a homicide rate of 1.81, similar to the rate for Canada's census metropolitan areas (CMAs) as a whole (1.88).

Census Metropolitan Areas (CMAs) are large urban cores (population of 100,000 and over) together with adjacent urban and rural areas, which have a high degree of economic and social integration. The areas served by police services may differ in their mix of urban/suburban populations, making it difficult to compare crime rates among these services. This lack of comparability is addressed by analyzing crime rates by CMA. Usually, more than one police department is responsible for enforcing the law within the boundaries of a CMA.

Table 3 divides the CMAs into three population categories. The first category includes the largest CMAs, with populations of 500,000 and more. Historically, these CMAs have tended to post the highest homicide rates. This trend held true in 2002, with these nine CMAs having a combined rate of 2.03. Winnipeg reported the highest rate (3.41), followed by Vancouver (3.26) and Edmonton (2.79). Quebec City, with only three homicides in 2002, reported its lowest rate (0.44) since CMA statistics were first collected in 1981, followed by Ottawa with eight homicides (0.93). Toronto, Canada's largest metropolitan area, recorded a rate (1.80) that was below the national rate but similar to its previous 10-year average (1.74). Montreal, the nation's second-largest CMA, posted a rate of 1.87, which also represented its lowest rate in the past 20 years.

The second CMA category is comprised of mid-sized CMAs with populations of 250,000 to 499,999. In 2002, these CMAs had the lowest combined rate (1.25). Gatineau reported the

highest homicide rate (2.21), followed closely by Windsor (2.16). Oshawa (no homicides) and Kitchener (0.65) reported the lowest rates.

The third CMA category, comprised of the nine smallest metropolitan areas, with populations of from 100,000 to 249,999, reported a combined rate of 1.48. Saskatoon (3.41) reported the highest rate, followed by Regina (2.00) and Saint John (1.38). The lowest rates were recorded in St. John's (0.57), Sherbrooke (0.68) and Saguenay (0.66). It should be noted that, because of their small populations, even minor fluctuations in the number of homicides for the cities in this CMA group can greatly affect their homicide rates.

Table 4 presents the number of homicides committed within the jurisdiction of the 30 largest police services in Canada. The information it provides can be used to highlight the contributions of a given CMA's principal police services to the total number of reported homicides. For example, the Toronto Police Service reported 65 of the 90 homicides committed in the Toronto CMA. However, the increase in the number of homicides within the Toronto CMA in 2002 (12 more than in 2001) can be primarily attributed to an increase of 8 homicides reported by the York Regional Police Service.

CHARACTERISTICS OF HOMICIDE INCIDENTS

More than half of all homicides were first degree murders

Between 1977⁸ and 1990, the proportion of homicides classified by the police as first degree murders increased, levelling off at about half of all incidents (52% in 2002). On the other hand, the proportion of homicides classified as second degree murders dropped during the same period and now represents slightly more than one third (37%) of such incidents. The proportions of incidents of manslaughter and infanticide have remained quite stable over the years, at around 10% and 1% respectively of the total number of homicides.

The classification of homicide offences in this report is based upon initial police investigation. In the transition period from initial police investigation of the accused to final court disposition, the legal classification of an incident may change. However, these changes are not reflected in this report.

Substantial drop in multiple-victim homicides

One incident of homicide is defined as the occurrence of one or more criminal offences during one single distinct event, regardless of the number of victims. Homicide incidents involving more than one victim generally receive greater media coverage and public attention than those involving a single victim. In 2002, the vast majority (97%) of the 558 homicide incidents involved only a single victim. The 18 multiple-victim homicide incidents in 2002 was lower than the average of 31 seen over the past decade.

8. Corresponds to the year in which categories of first and second degree murder were established following the 1976 abolition of the death penalty (Bill C-105).

Of the multiple-victim homicide incidents that occurred in 2002, 15 incidents involved 2 victims, 2 incidents involved 3 victims and 1 incident involved 6 victims, for a total of 42 victims. An accused was identified in the case of 38 of the 42 victims. Most of these victims (62%) were killed by a family member (e.g., an immediate or extended family member related by blood, marriage or adoption), similar to previous years. While there were no differences by gender for victims of multiple-victim homicides, virtually all (96%) of those charged in these incidents were males.

Most murder-suicides are family-related

In 2002, 38 incidents (representing 7% of all homicide incidents) involving 47 victims were murder-suicides, slightly lower than the average number of 41 incidents over the past decade. All but one of the perpetrators who committed suicide at the time of these incidents in 2002 were male, and all of the incidents involved a lone perpetrator.

The vast majority of murder-suicides in 2002 (31 incidents, 39 victims) involved at least one family member (i.e., an immediate or extended family member related by blood, marriage or adoption). Of those that were family-related, 81% (25 incidents) involved a man killing either his spouse and/or children.

The seven murder-suicide incidents that were non-family related occurred as the result of a dispute or fit of rage or jealousy between lovers, friends, acquaintances or individuals with business relationships.

Three in four homicide incidents solved by police

In 2002, police solved 77% of the 558 reported homicide incidents through the identification of at least one accused person. Over the past ten years, this proportion has fluctuated between 75% and 83%. Since the process of solving a homicide can sometimes be complex and time-consuming, an incident may not be solved until after the year in which it was initially recorded. Therefore, these data for 2002 may underestimate final police clearance rates.

Gang-related homicides

Gang-related homicides decline

Gang-related homicides include homicides reported by the police as the consequence of activities related to gangs or gang members, such as biker gangs, street gangs, youth gangs and organized crime groups. Between 1997 and 2000, the number of victims of gang-related homicides more than doubled, from 28 to 72. Since then, there have been two annual decreases (Table 5). The 45 victims in 2002 still accounted for almost 1 in every 13 homicide victims.

From the first year in which such information was collected through the Homicide Survey (1991) until 2001, the number of gang-related homicide victims has always been much higher in Quebec than elsewhere in the country. However, in 2002, the figure for Quebec fell dramatically (Table 6). By contrast, both Ontario and the Prairies have seen an increase in gang-related homicides in recent years.

In 2002, 1 in 3 (13 incidents) gang-related homicides were drug-related according to police. In addition, there were 48 drug-related homicides that were not related to gang activity.

Other gang-related homicides resulted primarily from disputes or acts of revenge involving either gang members or rivals. Firearms were used in 60% of all gang murders, which represents the lowest proportion since 1996. Other victims of gang-related homicides in 2002 were stabbed (24%), beaten (11%) or strangled (4%).

Of those homicide incidents cleared by police in 2002, charges were laid or recommended in 90% of the cases and the accused committed suicide immediately following the offence in 9%. The remaining 1% (4 incidents) were cleared for the following reasons: the Crown chose not to proceed due to the mental condition of the accused or the accused person died (from some cause other than suicide).

Six in ten homicides occur in residences

Of the 544 homicide incidents with a known location (14 were unknown) in 2002, almost two thirds (63%) took place in a private residence. In more than one third of these cases (39%), the residence was occupied solely by the victim. In another one third (33%) of the cases, the residence was occupied jointly by the victim and the accused. Not surprisingly, the vast majority (93%) of family-related homicides, including spousal homicides, occurred in a private residence, most commonly the home of both the victim and offender.

The remaining locations were distributed as follows: 24% in an open area (e.g., a parking lot, street or field), 8% in a commercial area (e.g., bar, restaurant, convenience store) and 3% in a private vehicle or taxi. The remaining 2% occurred in public institutions, three incidents of which were correctional facilities.

FIREARMS

Firearm use declined

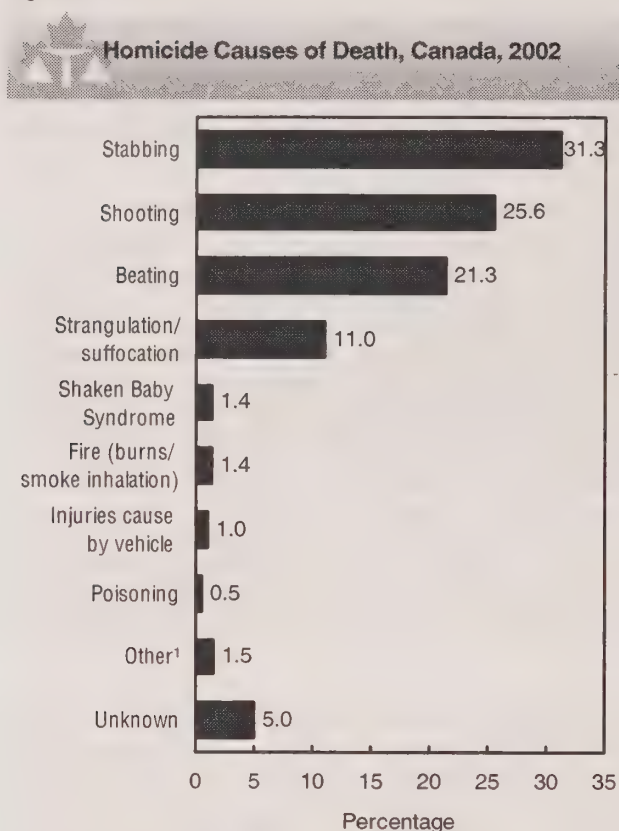
Over the past 10 years, firearms have typically been used in about one third of all homicides (32%). This percentage dropped to 26% in 2002, the lowest reported since data were first collected in 1961 (Figure 5). Stabbings were the most common method of homicide in 2002 (31%). A further 21% of the victims had been beaten to death and 11% were strangled. Fire (smoke inhalation/burns), motor vehicles, shaking (shaken baby syndrome) and poisoning each accounted for 1% of all homicides (Table 7, Figure 3).

In 2002, gang-related homicides were more likely to have occurred in public places (67%), such as bars, restaurants, parking lots, streets, highways and open areas. The proportion for other types of homicide is 24%. Conversely, non-gang-related homicides were most likely to occur in private residences (67%), compared to 24% for gang-related homicides.

The characteristics of victims and accused of gang-related homicides differed slightly from those of persons involved in other types of homicide. Victims and accused in gang-related homicides tended to be younger. In 2002, 60% of all gang-related homicide victims were between 18 and 29 years of age, compared to 28% of the victims in other types of homicide. Furthermore, three quarters (75%) of those accused in gang-related homicides in 2002 were between 18 and 29 years of age, compared to only 36% in other types of homicide. Of all gang-related homicides in 2002, 98% of victims and accused were male.

Seventy-nine percent of those accused of gang-related incidents had prior criminal records, with 58% holding previous convictions for violent offences. The comparable proportion was 45% for those accused of non-gang-related homicides. A large majority (80%) of gang-related homicide victims had been previously convicted on criminal charges. Sixty percent of these victims had been previously convicted for a violent crime other than homicide. In the case of victims of non-gang-related homicides, the comparable figure was 17%.

Figure 3



1. Other includes exposure, hypothermia and heart attack.

Source: Homicide Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

Firearm Legislation

In 1969, Parliament amended the *Criminal Code* (Bill C-150), which for the first time made it illegal to provide firearms to persons of "unsound mind" or criminals under prohibition orders. The legislation also expanded the definition of a "firearm," which, prior to 1969, only included handguns and automatic firearms, and introduced non-restricted, restricted and prohibited firearm categories.

In 1977, Parliament again amended the *Criminal Code* (Bill C-51), requiring individuals to obtain a Firearms Acquisition Certificate (FAC). The legislation also introduced a variety of provisions including regulations on safe storage and display of firearms for businesses and bona-fide gun collectors, and mandatory minimum sentences to deter the criminal use of firearms.

In 1991, Parliament strengthened the screening provisions for FAC applicants by introducing new legislation (Bill C-17). A multi-page form with a variety of questions concerning the applicant's personal and criminal history, personal references, picture, and a mandatory 28-day waiting period for approved FAC applicants was incorporated.

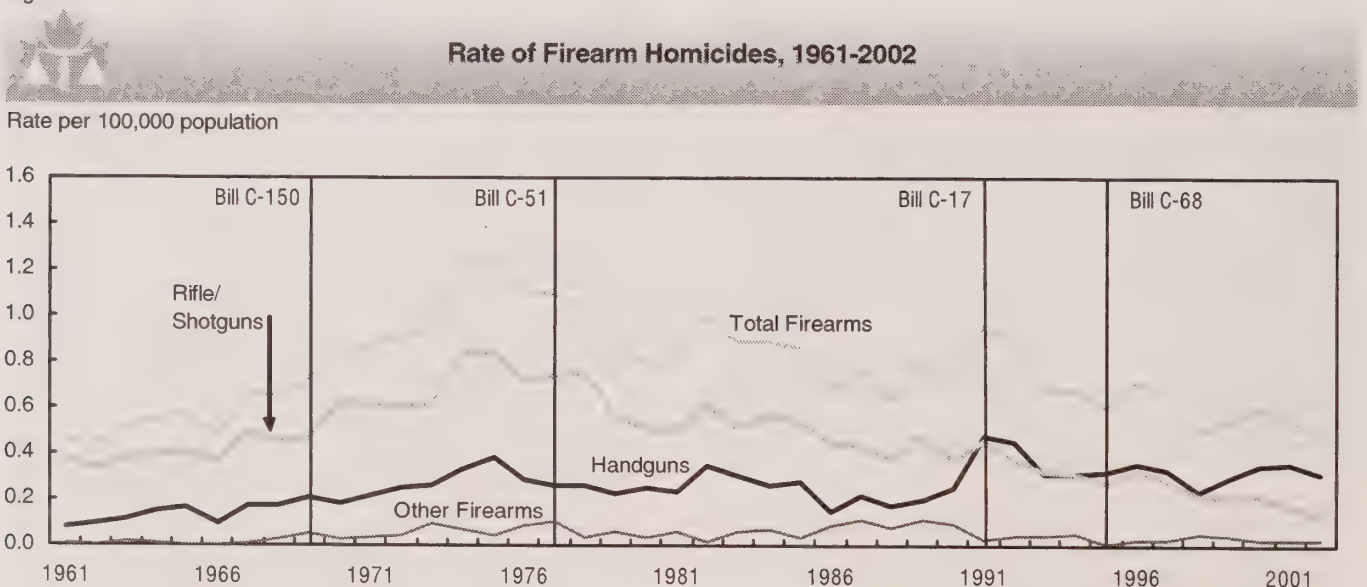
In 1995, Parliament passed Bill C-68, which created strict new penalties for the trafficking and smuggling of firearms, and tougher mandatory minimum sentences for serious offences involving firearms. All firearm owners and users are now required to obtain a firearm licence, and all firearms had to be registered by January 2003 (including non-restricted rifles and shotguns).

Figure 4 shows the firearm-related homicide rate between 1961 and 2002, indicating where legislative changes have been enacted. The information is not intended to establish a definitive cause-and-effect relationship between gun-control legislation and crime rates.

Homicides make up a relatively small proportion of all deaths caused by firearms. Among the 878 deaths in Canada due to firearms in 2000 (the last year for which figures are available), the largest proportion was attributable to suicide (78%), followed by homicide (18%) and accidental discharge (3%).⁹

9. Health Statistics Division, Causes of death, June 2003, Statistics Canada, Ottawa, 2003. Special request.

Figure 4



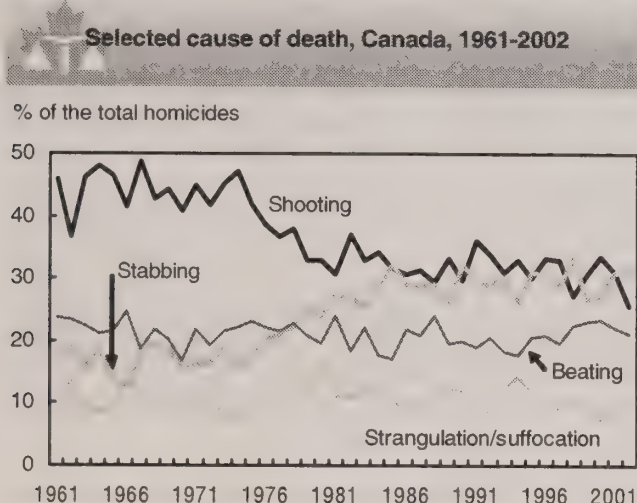
Note: See Firearm Legislation textbox for details of Bills.

Source: Homicide Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

Among the 149 homicides committed with a firearm in 2002, handguns were the most commonly used weapon; 98 (66%) homicides were committed with a handgun, 37 (25%) with a rifle or shotgun, 6 (4%) with a sawed-off rifle or shotgun, 3 (2%) with a fully automatic firearm and 5 (3%) with other types of firearms (Table 8).

Prior to 1990, handguns were used in about 3 out of 10 firearm-related homicides. Between 1991 and 1999, the proportion climbed to about half of all firearm-related homicides. Since 1999 the proportion has risen, with handguns now accounting for almost two thirds of all firearm-related homicides. This rise has been driven by a steady decline in the number of rifles and shotguns (including sawed-off shotguns), down from approximately half (51%) of all firearm-related homicides in 1990 to 29% in 2002.

Figure 5



Source: Homicide Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

Three in four recovered handguns not registered

In 1997, the Homicide Survey began collecting the following supplementary information on firearm incidents: firearm registration, ownership, possession of a valid FAC or Firearms Licence by the suspect, firearm status (stolen, lost or disappeared) and classification of the firearm. Analysis of these data focuses on handguns used in homicides, as the police have been required for some time to record such information as part of their investigations. However, it is important to note that a substantial portion of such information was either unknown to police at the time of the investigation, or the handgun was never recovered and the information is therefore unavailable. This analysis refers to cases where firearm registration, ownership and licensing information were known.

The available data suggest that most handguns used to commit homicide were not registered and the accused were not licensed firearm users. Studies in other countries on firearm use in homicides have reached similar conclusions.^{10,11}

Between 1997 and 2002, 574 homicides were committed with handguns. Among the 31% (176) of homicides in which a handgun was recovered, about three quarters (72%) of the

handguns were not registered. About four in five (81%) of all accused did not possess a valid FAC or Firearms Licence. Where ownership of the handgun could be determined by police, the accused owned the handgun in half (49%) of these homicides, compared to 3% in which it was owned by the victim. Someone other than the accused or victim owned the handgun in the remaining incidents.

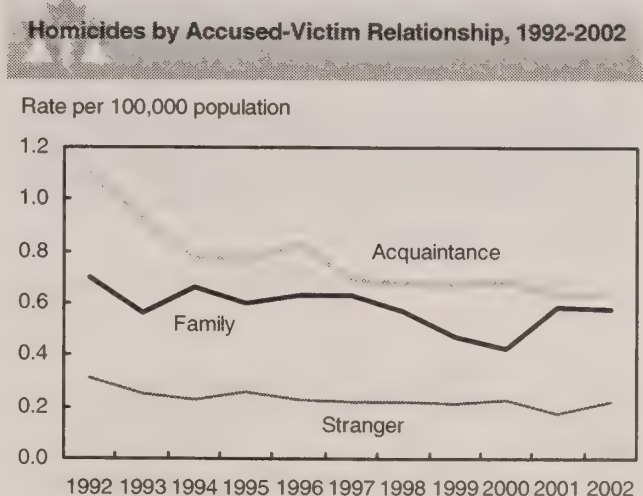
ACCUSED-VICTIM RELATIONSHIP

The Homicide Survey collects data on the relationships between persons accused of homicide and their victims. The following analysis is based on the total count of victims for whom an accused was identified, 78% of all victims in 2002.

The data indicate that homicides are far more likely to be committed by someone known to the victim than by a stranger. In 2002, accused who were known to the victim accounted for 84% of all solved homicides — 44% were committed by an acquaintance (i.e., non-family) of the victim and another 40% by a family member (Table 9). The remaining victims (15%) were killed by strangers. Among the 200 victims killed by an acquaintance, 100 were killed by a causal acquaintance, 29 were killed by a boyfriend or girlfriend, 16 were killed by an estranged boyfriend or girlfriend and 37 were killed by someone with whom they had a criminal relationship (i.e., prostitutes, drug dealers and their clients).

Although 15 more victims were killed by strangers in 2002 than in 2001, the total of 69 victims killed in this manner was identical to the average number of the past 10 years. Furthermore, the proportion of stranger homicides has remained relatively stable over the past 10 years, ranging from 12% to 17% of all homicides (Figure 6). Half of the victims who were killed by

Figure 6



Source: Homicide Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

10. Home Office, *Criminal Statistics England and Wales 1997*, Research Development and Statistics Directorate, The Stationery Office, London, 1998.

11. J. Mouzos, *The Licensing and Registration Status of Firearms Used in Homicide, Trends and Questions in Crime and Criminal Justice*, Australian Institute of Criminology, Canberra, No. 151, 2001.

strangers in 2002 were murdered during the commission of another criminal offence, usually assault, robbery or sexual assault. Of the total number of solved homicides, male victims were more likely (20%) to be killed by strangers than were female victims (7%).

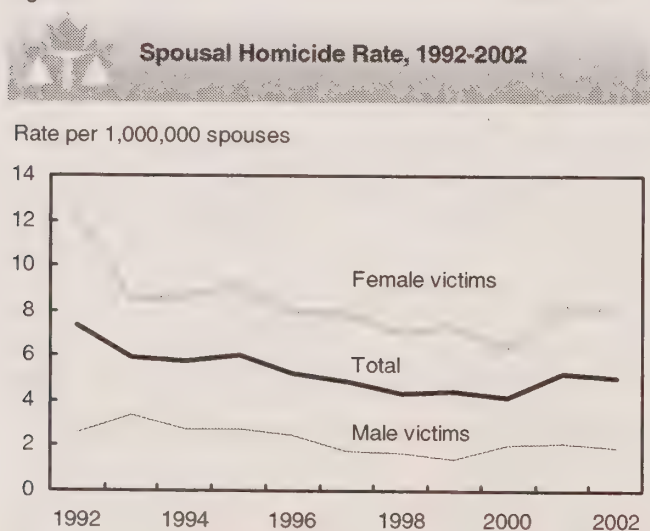
The number of mothers accused of homicide falls to its lowest level since 1965

Family homicides include homicides of a spouse, a parent, children, siblings or other members related by blood, marriage or adoption. There were 182 victims of family homicide in 2002, a number very close to that of the previous year (183 victims), but slightly more than the previous 10-year average (173). Between 2001 and 2002, only two categories of family members accused of homicide decreased in number: there were six fewer women killed by their husbands (legally married or common-law) and nine fewer homicides of children killed by their mother. The eight mothers accused of killing their children was the lowest since 1965¹² (Table 9).

Spousal homicides represent one of every five solved cases

Spousal homicides include persons in legal marriages, those separated or divorced from such unions and those in common-law relationships (including same-sex spouses). The spousal homicide rate dropped very slightly in 2002 (-3%), following a 25% increase in 2001 (Figure 7). Spousal homicides account for one out of every five solved homicides and almost half (46%) of all family homicides (Table 9). The actual number of persons killed by a spouse (84 victims) in 2002 was similar to the previous 10-year average (82). In 2002, the number of spousal homicides was greater in two provinces than their respective 10-year averages. This was the case in Quebec, with eight more spousal homicides than average, and Alberta, with five more. Ontario had reported a marked increase in the number of spousal homicides in 2001 for a total of 37 homicides. In 2002, it recorded 25 such homicides, a figure lower than its previous 10-year average (28) (Table 10).

Figure 7



Source: Homicide Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

Alberta reported the highest rate of spousal homicides among the provinces in 2002 (9.2 spousal homicides per 1,000,000 married persons), followed by Saskatchewan (7.8). These two provinces also reported the highest rates over the past decade.

Notwithstanding annual fluctuations, spousal homicide rates for both men and women generally declined between 1974 and 2000. Several societal changes have been suggested to explain the decline, including the changing nature of intimate relationships, increasing gender equality, criminal and civil legislative changes; policy and procedural changes (such as specialized domestic violence courts), training of criminal justice personnel and increasing availability of resources for victims of domestic violence.¹³

The methods used to commit spousal homicide differed between men and women. Out of the 16 spousal homicides perpetrated against men in 2002, 69% were stabbed, 13% were shot and 13% were suffocated or burned. Of the 68 female victims, 35% were stabbed, 31% were strangled, 21% were shot and 9% were beaten to death. Police reported a history of domestic violence in 60% of all spousal homicides. This was more frequently the case when the victim was male (75%) than when the victim was female (56%).

Homicides in other types of partner relationships (boyfriend or girlfriend, lovers, estranged lovers and same-sex relationships) increased slightly over the previous year. There were 16 homicides (9 female and 7 male victims) committed by a non-spousal partner in 2002, four more than in 2001, but fewer than the average number of victims for the previous 10-year period (22). Among all solved homicides, 44% of all female victims and 8% of all male victims in 2002 were killed by a person with whom they had had a relationship at one point in time, through either marriage or dating.

Nearly three quarters of murdered children killed by a parent

There were 44 children (under the age of 12) murdered in 2002, five more than in 2001, but still below the average number of victims for the previous 10-year period (50). Nearly three quarters of these children were killed by their parents—there were 25 parent-child homicide incidents involving 31 child victims (Table 11). Two children were killed by other family members or family friends, and two by a babysitter. One child was killed by a stranger. No accused person has yet been identified in the cases of eight other children.

Taking into account the fact that some of these incidents involve multiple-accused and multiple-victims, the actual number of accused parents in 2001 were 18 fathers (14 fathers and 4 step-fathers) and 7 mothers.

For the second year in a row, the number of infants under one year of age (13) who were homicide victims remained lower than the 10-year average of 18. However, compared to other

12. For more information on family related homicides, see K. Au Coin, Family violence in Canada: A statistical profile, No. 85-224-XPE in the catalogue of Statistics Canada, Ottawa 2003.

13. V. Pottie-Bunge, National Trends in Intimate Partner Homicides, 1974-2000, Juristat, No. 85-002-XPE in the catalogue of Statistics Canada, Ottawa, vol. 22, No. 5, 2002.

children under 12, infants under one year of age were still at the highest risk of being victims of homicide, with a rate of about four victims for every 100,000 infants. In 2002, parents were responsible for eight infant homicides (four mothers and four fathers). No accused persons have been identified in the cases of the other five infants.

It is important to note that the figure for infant homicides may be under-reported, since some claims of accidental deaths, such as falls or "sudden infant deaths," could be attributed to child abuse. Since 1995, most provinces have legislated mandatory coroner inquests into the deaths of children under two years of age. However, it is still possible that some cases would fail to be reported or classified by police as homicides.

AGE AND SEX OF VICTIMS AND ACCUSED

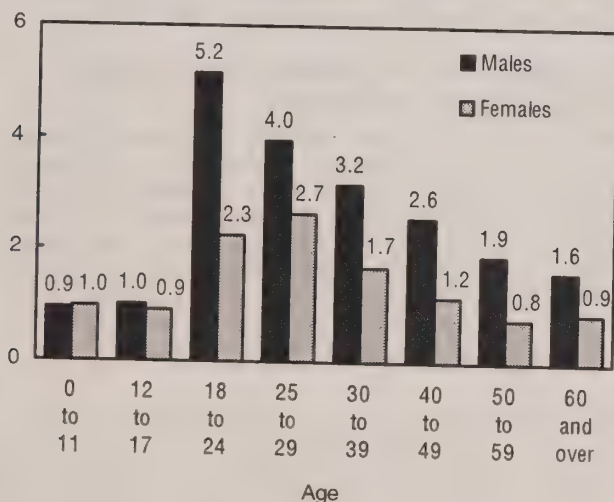
Males account for a majority of victims and accused

As in the past, about two thirds (65%) of homicide victims were male in 2002. More than half (52%) of all victims were between 18 and 39 years of age. Male victimization rates peak at a younger age than those of female (Figure 8): 18-24 years of age for males and 25-29 for females. The risk of becoming a victim of homicide tends to decline with age for both genders after 30 years of age.

Figure 8

Victim homicide rates by age group and sex, 2002

Rate per 100,000 population



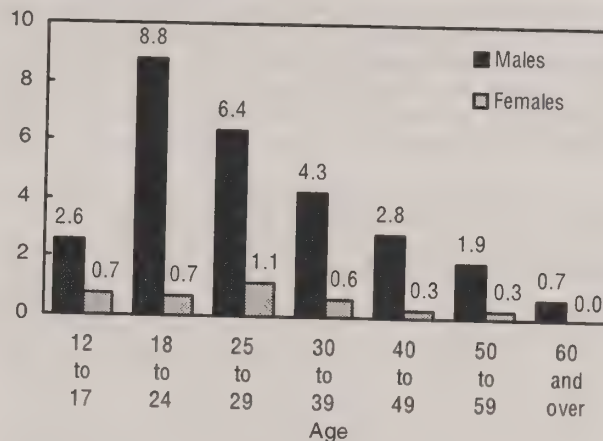
Source: Homicide Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

Males accounted for the vast majority of all those accused of homicide in 2002 (89%), consistent with the average for the previous 10 years. The age pattern for accused persons is very similar to the pattern described above for victims of homicide (Figure 9).

Figure 9

Accused homicide rates by age group and sex, 2002

Rate per 100,000 population



Source: Homicide Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

YOUTH HOMICIDE

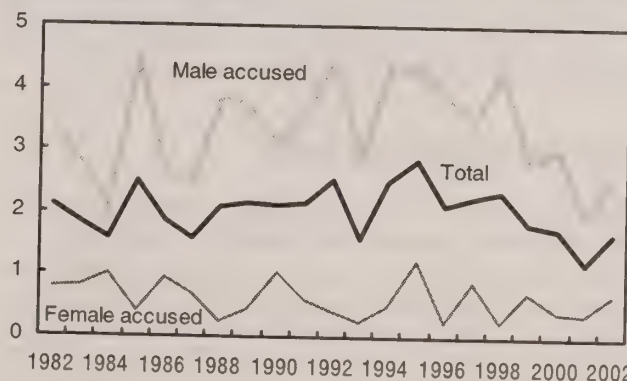
Number of homicides committed by youths lower than historical average

In 2002, 42 youths (persons 12 to 17 years of age) were charged with homicide, the first increase after three consecutive annual declines. This number is lower than the past 10-year average of 50 youths accused of homicide each year (Table 12, Figure 10).

Figure 10

Youths (12-17 Years) Accused of Homicide, 1982-2002

Rate per 100,000 Youths



Source: Homicide Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

Youths represented 8% of all those charged with homicide in 2002, a proportion similar to that of the previous decade (9%). Although most youth homicides were still committed by males, the proportion of females was higher for youth accused (21%) than for adult accused (10%).

As is the case historically, youths were more likely than adults to kill other youths. Among solved homicides in 2002, youths accused of homicide were responsible for killing 31 victims, 39% of whom were aged 12 to 24 years. Of the homicides committed by adults, 20% of the victims were from 12 to 24 years of age.

ABORIGINAL PEOPLES ARE OVER-REPRESENTED IN HOMICIDES

It has been widely documented that Aboriginal people are over-represented in the justice system.¹⁴ This also appears to hold true for their involvement in homicide, as both accused and victims. In accordance with internal guidelines, various police services (such as the RCMP) no longer collect information on the Aboriginal status of accused or victims. In 2002, such information was only available for 41% of the victims and 38% of those accused. Nonetheless, on the basis of information from police services that do report this information, Aboriginals, who make up 3% of the Canadian population, accounted for 21% of those accused of homicide and 14% of homicide victims in 2002 (these proportions exclude data from police services not providing such information).

TWO THIRDS OF ACCUSED AND HALF OF ALL VICTIMS HAD PREVIOUS CRIMINAL RECORDS

In 2002, almost two thirds (62%) of persons aged 12 or older accused of homicide had a Canadian criminal record. Among those with a prior criminal history, three quarters (73%) had been previously convicted of a violent offence: 8 for homicide,¹⁵ 44 for robbery and 183 for other violent offences. Among the eight accused with a previous homicide conviction, five killed a friend or acquaintance and three killed a stranger. Similarly, half (50%) of all homicide victims 12 years and over in 2002 had a Canadian criminal record. Forty-seven percent of this group had been previously convicted of a violent crime: 6 for homicide, 23 for robbery and 97 for other violent offences.

PRECIPITATING FACTORS

Most victims and accused persons had consumed alcohol and/or drugs at the time of the homicide

Alcohol, drugs and other intoxicants are known to play a role in the commission of many crimes including homicide.¹⁶ In incidents in which it was possible to determine that alcohol/drug consumption had been a factor in 2002, police reported that more than half (52%) of all homicide victims and two thirds (68%) of those accused had consumed alcohol and/or drugs at the time of the offence, similar to the pattern observed since 1991, when this information was first collected. As victims of

homicide, males were almost twice as likely as females to have consumed alcohol and/or drugs, whereas for accused persons, females were slightly more likely than males to have done so.

Half of homicide incidents motivated by anger or despair

As determined by police, the most common motive for committing homicide in 2002 was an argument, quarrel or incident inciting a vengeful or jealous reaction or an act of despair (54% of all homicide incidents). A further 18% were motivated by financial gain or the settling of accounts. There were seven "random" killings (victims randomly selected) in 2002, an increase from the past five-year average of three. Most of these "random" killings incidents were reported in Québec (4). There were three homicides motivated by hate in 2002. From 1992 to 2001, there were 14 homicide incidents that were motivated by hate.

One in eight of those accused reported to have a mental health problem

In 1997, the Homicide Survey began collecting information on any suspected mental or developmental disorders (such as schizophrenia, manic depression or developmental delays) among accused persons. It is important to note that this information is not intended to be diagnostic, and should be interpreted with some caution since it is not necessarily based upon a doctor's assessment. This information reflects police perceptions as to the mental health condition of accused persons.

Excluding those cases in which mental status was unknown, police suspected the presence of a mental or developmental disorder among 13% of accused persons in 2002, similar to the percentage reported each year since 1997.

Over one third of all homicides occurred during commission of another offence

In 2002, more than one third (38%) of all homicide incidents occurred during the commission of another criminal offence. Of these 210 incidents, 169 (80%) were committed at the same time as another violent offence: 71 during an assault, 46 during a robbery, 21 during a sexual assault, 19 during other violent offences, 8 as the result of stalking¹⁷ and 4 during a kidnapping/abduction. Five other homicides occurred as a result of arson, 12 were committed during other property offences and 24 in conjunction with other types of criminal offences.

14. *Correctional Service of Canada, Demographic Overview of Aboriginal Peoples in Canada and Aboriginal Offenders in Federal Corrections, Aboriginal Initiatives Branch CSC, Correctional Service of Canada, Ottawa, 1999. Also see: Aboriginal people in Canada (Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics profile series), No. 85F0033MIE in the catalogue of Statistics Canada, Ottawa, June 2001.*

15. *All of those accused were aged 18 or more in 2002.*

16. *R.N. Parker and K. Auerhahn, Drugs, alcohol and homicide: Issues in theory and research, Homicide: A Sourcebook of Social Research. Edited by M.D. Smith and M.A. Zahn, Thousand Oaks, Sage Publications, 1999, pp. 176-191.*

17. *For more information on criminal harassment, see K. Hackett, Criminal Harassment, Juristat, No. 85-002-XPE in the catalogue of Statistics Canada, Ottawa, vol. 20, No. 11, 2000.*

AT RISK OCCUPATIONS

Some people are at a heightened risk of violence and homicide by their profession. The homicide survey collects information on victims' death associated with their profession. It should be noted that these victims were killed partly or entirely because of their profession. For example, if a prostitute is killed by her spouse during a dispute that is not related to the victim's work, her death is not reported in the homicide statistics associated with prostitution-related activities.

In 2002, 18 prostitute homicides were reported by the police.¹⁸ This figure was very high compared to the previous five years, where an average of three prostitutes were killed each year. Part of this increase is a result of 15 homicides which occurred in Port Coquitlam in previous years being reported by police in 2002.

One police officer killed in the line of duty

Despite the obvious dangers inherent in police work, the number of police officers murdered in Canada in the line of duty is relatively low. Since 1961, there have been 118 police officers killed while on the job, an average of three police officers each year. In 2002, one police officer was the victim of homicide. By comparison, preliminary figures for 2002 from the United States, with a population about ten times greater than that of Canada, reported 56 police officers killed in the line of duty in 2002.¹⁹

METHODOLOGY

The Homicide Survey began collecting police-reported data on homicide incidents, victims and accused persons in Canada in 1961. Until 1974, cases of manslaughter and infanticide were not included in the survey. Whenever a homicide becomes known to police, the investigating police department completes a survey questionnaire, which is then forwarded to the Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics. This questionnaire remained virtually unmodified from 1961 to 1990. In 1991 and later in 1997, in an effort to respond to changing information needs, the survey was revised and expanded.

The total count of homicides for each year is equal to the total number of homicides *known* and *reported* by police departments during that year. Also, information (such as histories of domestic violence, alcohol/drug consumption) on persons accused of homicide are only available for solved incidents (i.e., where at least one accused has been identified). It should be noted that this information is updated as the Centre receives it. Therefore, accused characteristics will be updated as homicide cases are solved and new information comes to light. In incidents where there are multiple accused persons, only the *closest* relationship between the victim and any of the accused is recorded.

18. For more information on this topic, see H. Johnson, *Sexual Offences*, Juristat, No. 85-002-XIE2003 in the catalogue of Statistics Canada, Ottawa, vol. 23, No. 6 (2003).

19. United States Department of Justice, Federal Bureau of Investigation, press release, May 12, 2003.

Table 2

Homicides by Province/Territory

| Province/Territory | 2002 ¹ | | 2001 ^{2r} | | Average 1992-2001 | |
|------------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|--------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| | Number of victims | Rate ³ | Number of victims | Rate ³ | Number of victims | Rate ³ |
| Newfoundland & Labrador | 2 | 0.38 | 1 | 0.19 | 5 | 0.86 |
| Prince Edward Island | 1 | 0.71 | 2 | 1.44 | 2 | 1.50 |
| Nova Scotia | 9 | 0.95 | 9 | 0.95 | 18 | 1.92 |
| New Brunswick | 9 | 1.19 | 8 | 1.06 | 10 | 1.33 |
| Québec | 118 | 1.58 | 140 | 1.89 | 144 | 1.97 |
| Ontario | 178 | 1.47 | 170 | 1.43 | 182 | 1.63 |
| Manitoba | 36 | 3.13 | 34 | 2.96 | 32 | 2.78 |
| Saskatchewan | 27 | 2.67 | 27 | 2.65 | 26 | 2.59 |
| Alberta | 70 | 2.25 | 70 | 2.29 | 64 | 2.25 |
| British Columbia ⁴ | 126 | 3.04 | 84 | 2.05 | 109 | 2.84 |
| Yukon | 0 | 0.00 | 1 | 3.31 | 2 | 5.52 |
| Northwest Territories ⁵ | 4 | 9.66 | 4 | 9.70 | 5 | 9.24 |
| Nunavut ⁶ | 2 | 6.97 | 3 | 10.67 | 3 | 9.67 |
| CANADA | 582 | 1.85 | 553 | 1.78 | 596 | 2.01 |

- ^r revised
- ¹ A total of 32 homicides were reported and included in 2002 but occurred in previous years: 2 in Nova Scotia; 2 in Québec; 13 in Ontario; 15 in British Columbia.
- ² A total of 12 homicides were reported and included in 2001 but occurred in previous years: 3 in Québec; 7 in Ontario; 2 in Manitoba.
- ³ Rates are calculated per 100,000 population.
Population estimates at July 1st, provided by Statistics Canada, Census and Demographic Statistics, Demography Division.
Estimate population used: 2001: Updated postcensal estimates
2002: Preliminary postcensal estimates
- ⁴ Part of this increase is a result of 15 homicides which occurred in Port Coquitlam in previous years being reported by police in 2002. Homicide counts reflect the year in which police file the homicide report.
- ⁵ Includes Nunavut before 1999.
- ⁶ Nunavut's average represents 1999-2001.
- Source:** Homicide Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

Table 3

Homicides by Census Metropolitan Area

| Census Metropolitan Area | 2002 ¹ | | | 2001 ^{2r} | | | Average 1992-2001 ³ | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------|
| | Population ⁴ | Number of victims | Rate ⁵ | Population ⁴ | Number of victims | Rate ⁵ | Number of victims | Rate ⁵ |
| 500,000+ population | | | | | | | | |
| Toronto | 4,987,556 | 90 | 1.80 | 4,864,286 | 78 | 1.60 | 78 | 1.74 |
| Montréal | 3,524,313 | 66 | 1.87 | 3,491,167 | 78 | 2.23 | 80 | 2.37 |
| Vancouver ⁶ | 2,118,504 | 69 | 3.26 | 2,082,039 | 43 | 2.07 | 53 | 2.78 |
| Calgary | 988,873 | 15 | 1.52 | 966,654 | 15 | 1.55 | 17 | 1.90 |
| Edmonton | 968,950 | 27 | 2.79 | 956,379 | 25 | 2.61 | 24 | 2.62 |
| Ottawa ⁷ | 862,835 | 8 | 0.93 | 847,526 | 3 | 0.35 | 11 | 1.37 |
| Québec | 679,889 | 3 | 0.44 | 684,058 | 5 | 0.73 | 10 | 1.46 |
| Winnipeg | 674,188 | 23 | 3.41 | 673,218 | 19 | 2.82 | 18 | 2.70 |
| Hamilton | 659,539 | 13 | 1.97 | 653,986 | 13 | 1.99 | 12 | 1.80 |
| Total | 15,464,647 | 314 | 2.03 | 15,219,313 | 279 | 1.83 | 302 | 2.08 |
| 250,000 - 499,999 population | | | | | | | | |
| Kitchener | 463,222 | 3 | 0.65 | 456,218 | 6 | 1.32 | 5 | 1.08 |
| St. Catharines-Niagara | 426,450 | 8 | 1.88 | 425,688 | 5 | 1.17 | 6 | 1.14 |
| London | 381,508 | 4 | 1.05 | 380,190 | 6 | 1.58 | 5 | 1.28 |
| Halifax | 374,624 | 5 | 1.33 | 370,641 | 3 | 0.81 | 8 | 2.22 |
| Windsor | 324,519 | 7 | 2.16 | 319,477 | 3 | 0.94 | 7 | 2.21 |
| Victoria | 321,064 | 3 | 0.93 | 318,723 | 4 | 1.26 | 7 | 2.11 |
| Oshawa | 310,027 | 0 | 0.00 | 304,592 | 1 | 0.33 | 3 | 1.07 |
| Gatineau ⁸ | 271,197 | 6 | 2.21 | 266,347 | 2 | 0.75 | 3 | 1.34 |
| Total | 2,872,611 | 36 | 1.25 | 2,841,876 | 30 | 1.06 | 42 | 1.56 |
| 100,000 - 249,999 population | | | | | | | | |
| Saskatoon | 234,267 | 8 | 3.41 | 233,798 | 1 | 0.43 | 6 | 2.53 |
| Regina | 200,417 | 4 | 2.00 | 201,554 | 7 | 3.47 | 5 | 2.56 |
| St. John's | 176,619 | 1 | 0.57 | 175,530 | 1 | 0.57 | 2 | 1.30 |
| Sudbury | 159,316 | 2 | 1.26 | 160,401 | 5 | 3.12 | 4 | 2.13 |
| Saguenay | 150,447 | 1 | 0.66 | 143,610 | 1 | 0.70 | 1 | 0.75 |
| Sherbrooke | 146,501 | 1 | 0.68 | 145,252 | 0 | 0.00 | 2 | 1.21 |
| Saint John | 146,140 | 2 | 1.37 | 146,369 | 1 | 0.68 | 2 | 1.57 |
| Trois-Rivières | 145,447 | 2 | 1.38 | 145,597 | 1 | 0.69 | 2 | 1.26 |
| Thunder Bay | 126,239 | 1 | 0.79 | 127,128 | 3 | 2.36 | 4 | 2.87 |
| Total | 1,485,393 | 22 | 1.48 | 1,479,239 | 20 | 1.35 | 29 | 1.80 |
| CMA TOTALS | 19,822,651 | 372 | 1.88 | 19,540,428 | 329 | 1.68 | 372 | 2.00 |
| < 100,000 population | 11,591,339 | 210 | 1.81 | 11,570,137 | 224 | 1.94 | 224 | 1.99 |
| CANADA | 31,413,990 | 582 | 1.85 | 31,110,565 | 553 | 1.78 | 596 | 2.00 |

^r revised¹ A total of 32 homicides were reported and included in 2002 but occurred in previous years: 1 in Halifax; 2 in Montréal; 5 in Toronto; 1 in Hamilton; 1 in London; 2 in Windsor; 15 in Vancouver; 5 in Areas < 100,000.² A total of 12 homicides were reported and included in 2001 but occurred in previous years: 1 in Québec; 1 in Trois-Rivières; 1 in Toronto; 2 in Hamilton; 1 in Winnipeg; 6 in Areas < 100,000.³ The CMA boundaries change at each census as the population increases and the commuting patterns expand from the urban core. Data presented in this CMA table represent more than one census period. Data from 1991 to 1995 are based on 1991 census boundaries. Data from 1996 to the most current year are based on 1996 census boundaries.⁴ Population estimates at July 1st, provided by Statistics Canada, Census and Demographic Statistics, Demography Division. Populations for all CMAs have been adjusted to better reflect police boundaries, with the exception of the Oshawa CMA.

Estimate population used: 2001: Updated postcensal estimates

2002: Preliminary postcensal estimates

⁵ Rates are calculated per 100,000 population.⁶ Part the increase seen in 2002 is a result of 15 homicides which occurred in Port Coquitlam in previous years being reported by police in 2002. Homicide counts reflect the year in which police file the report.⁷ Ottawa refers to the Ontario part of the Ottawa-Gatineau CMA.⁸ Gatineau refers to the Québec part of the Ottawa-Gatineau CMA.**Source:** Homicide Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

Table 4

Homicide Rates Within the Jurisdiction of the 30 Largest Police Services, 2002

| Police Service | 2002 | | | 2001 | | |
|--|-------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| | Population ² | Number of victims | Rate ³ | Population ² | Number of victims | Rate ³ |
| Toronto CMA Police Services¹ | | | | | | |
| Toronto Police | 2,614,956 | 65 | 2.49 | 2,582,781 | 59 | 2.28 |
| Peel Regional Police | 1,044,337 | 9 | 0.86 | 1,004,961 | 10 | 1.00 |
| York Regional Police | 818,013 | 12 | 1.47 | 777,536 | 4 | 0.51 |
| Durham Regional Police | 530,341 | 1 | 0.19 | 521,602 | 4 | 0.77 |
| Halton Regional Police | 394,238 | 1 | 0.25 | 386,634 | 1 | 0.26 |
| Montréal CMA Police Services¹ | | | | | | |
| Montréal Police | 1,853,489 | 48 | 2.59 | 1,840,093 | 66 | 3.59 |
| Longueuil Police | 382,401 | 6 | 1.57 | 381,955 | 0 | 0.00 |
| Laval Police | 359,627 | 2 | 0.56 | 355,770 | 3 | 0.84 |
| Vancouver CMA Police Services¹ | | | | | | |
| Vancouver Police | 580,094 | 13 | 2.24 | 573,154 | 16 | 2.79 |
| Surrey (RCMP) Police | 349,044 | 10 | 2.86 | 344,620 | 12 | 3.48 |
| Burnaby (RCMP) Police | 195,383 | 10 | 5.12 | 193,644 | 2 | 1.03 |
| Richmond (RCMP) Police | 168,254 | 5 | 2.97 | 166,809 | 4 | 2.40 |
| Other Large Police Services | | | | | | |
| Calgary Police | 915,453 | 15 | 1.64 | 896,713 | 14 | 1.56 |
| Ottawa Police | 817,375 | 8 | 0.98 | 802,812 | 3 | 0.37 |
| Edmonton Police | 666,739 | 24 | 3.60 | 662,021 | 21 | 3.17 |
| Winnipeg Police | 631,620 | 22 | 3.48 | 631,101 | 19 | 3.01 |
| Québec Police | 516,740 | 2 | 0.39 | 545,689 | 2 | 0.37 |
| Hamilton Regional Police | 505,941 | 11 | 2.17 | 502,473 | 11 | 2.19 |
| Waterloo Regional Police | 463,222 | 3 | 0.65 | 456,218 | 6 | 1.32 |
| Niagara Regional Police | 426,450 | 8 | 1.88 | 425,688 | 5 | 1.17 |
| London Police | 346,372 | 3 | 0.87 | 345,226 | 6 | 1.74 |
| Gatineau-Métro Police | 219,717 | 4 | 1.82 | 216,599 | 0 | 0.00 |
| Windsor Police | 214,348 | 7 | 3.27 | 212,600 | 2 | 0.94 |
| Saskatoon Police | 206,922 | 6 | 2.90 | 206,396 | 1 | 0.48 |
| Halifax Regional Police | 200,928 | 3 | 1.49 | 200,480 | 2 | 1.00 |
| Regina Police | 184,661 | 4 | 2.17 | 185,855 | 7 | 3.77 |
| St. John's (RNC) Police | 176,619 | 1 | 0.57 | 175,530 | 1 | 0.57 |
| Greater Sudbury Police | 159,316 | 2 | 1.26 | 160,401 | 5 | 3.12 |
| Saguenay Police | 150,447 | 1 | 0.66 | 143,610 | 1 | 0.70 |
| Sherbrooke Regional Police | 146,501 | 1 | 0.68 | 145,252 | 0 | 0.00 |

¹ The Police Services listed under the Toronto, Montreal and Vancouver CMA's do not represent all the police service in each CMA. In some cases, only portions of a police services are included in the CMA.

² Police Service population estimates were derived from 2002 preliminary postcensal population estimates (1996 Census boundaries), Demography Division, Statistics Canada. 2001: Updated postcensal estimates

2002: Preliminary postcensal estimates

³ Rates are calculated per 100,000 population.

Source: Homicide Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

Table 5

Gang-related Homicides, Canada, 1992-2002

| Year | Gang-related incidents | | | | Total number of victims | Gang-related incidents as a % of all homicide incidents |
|-------------------|------------------------|----------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------|---|
| | Drug-related | Settling of accounts | Other motives ¹ | Total number of incidents | | |
| | number | | | | | |
| 1992 | 9 | 6 | 4 | 19 | 19 | 2.8 |
| 1993 | 8 | 2 | 2 | 12 | 13 | 2.0 |
| 1994 | 15 | 6 | 2 | 23 | 24 | 4.1 |
| 1995 | 8 | 2 | 9 | 19 | 21 | 3.4 |
| 1996 | 21 | 3 | 2 | 26 | 29 | 4.5 |
| 1997 ^r | 8 | 5 | 14 | 27 | 28 | 5.0 |
| 1998 ^r | 18 | 15 | 15 | 48 | 51 | 9.1 |
| 1999 ^r | 19 | 12 | 13 | 44 | 45 | 8.7 |
| 2000 ^r | 34 | 20 | 11 | 65 | 72 | 12.6 |
| 2001 ^r | 23 | 15 | 21 | 59 | 61 | 11.5 |
| 2002 | 13 | 13 | 17 | 43 | 45 | 7.7 |
| Average 1992-1997 | 12 | 4 | 6 | 21 | 22 | 3.7 |
| Average 1998-2002 | 21 | 15 | 15 | 52 | 55 | 9.9 |

^r revised¹ Other motives includes: revenge, jealousy, argument, quarrel, frustration, anger, financial gain, protection of assets, hate crime, fear of apprehension, other motive and unknown motive.

Source: Homicide Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

Table 6

Victims of gang-related homicide by region, 1992-2002

| Region | Year | | | | | | | | | | |
|------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-------------------|-----------|
| | 1992 | 1993 | 1994 | 1995 | 1996 | 1997 | 1998 | 1999 | 2000 | 2001 ^r | 2002 |
| | number | | | | | | | | | | |
| Atlantic | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 4 | 0 | 0 |
| Québec | 10 | 8 | 13 | 13 | 13 | 17 | 31 | 30 | 38 | 23 | 6 |
| Ontario | 3 | 3 | 4 | 0 | 3 | 1 | 6 | 5 | 11 | 19 | 19 |
| Prairies | 0 | 1 | 2 | 4 | 6 | 3 | 6 | 5 | 9 | 9 | 13 |
| British Columbia | 6 | 1 | 4 | 4 | 6 | 6 | 7 | 5 | 10 | 10 | 7 |
| Territories | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| CANADA | 19 | 13 | 24 | 21 | 29 | 28 | 51 | 45 | 72 | 61 | 45 |

^r revised

Source: Homicide Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

Table 7

Homicides by Cause of Death, Canada, 1992-2002

| Year | Shooting | | Stabbing | | Beating | | Strangulation/ Suffocation | | Shaken Baby Syndrome ¹ | | Fire (smoke inhalation, burns) | |
|-------------------|----------------------|---------|----------------------|---------|----------------------|---------|-------------------------------|---------|--------------------------------------|---------|-----------------------------------|---------|
| | Number of victims | Percent | Number of victims | Percent | Number of victims | Percent | Number of victims | Percent | Number of victims | Percent | Number of victims | Percent |
| 1992 | 247 | 33.7 | 211 | 28.8 | 151 | 20.6 | 61 | 8.3 | ... | ... | 35 | 4.8 |
| 1993 | 195 | 31.1 | 191 | 30.5 | 116 | 18.5 | 77 | 12.3 | ... | ... | 17 | 2.7 |
| 1994 | 196 | 32.9 | 154 | 25.8 | 106 | 17.8 | 84 | 14.1 | ... | ... | 17 | 2.9 |
| 1995 | 176 | 29.9 | 183 | 31.1 | 121 | 20.6 | 70 | 11.9 | ... | ... | 20 | 3.4 |
| 1996 | 212 | 33.4 | 195 | 30.7 | 132 | 20.8 | 59 | 9.3 | ... | ... | 8 | 1.3 |
| 1997 | 193 | 32.9 | 168 | 28.7 | 115 | 19.6 | 53 | 9.0 | 6 | 1.0 | 30 | 5.1 |
| 1998 | 151 | 27.1 | 186 | 33.3 | 125 | 22.4 | 61 | 10.9 | 6 | 1.1 | 12 | 2.2 |
| 1999 | 165 | 30.7 | 143 | 26.6 | 125 | 23.2 | 55 | 10.2 | 7 | 1.3 | 11 | 2.0 |
| 2000 | 184 | 33.7 | 149 | 27.3 | 128 | 23.4 | 39 | 7.1 | 13 | 2.4 | 4 | 0.7 |
| 2001 ^r | 171 | 30.9 | 171 | 30.9 | 122 | 22.1 | 47 | 8.5 | 8 | 1.4 | 8 | 1.4 |
| 2002 | 149 | 25.6 | 182 | 31.3 | 124 | 21.3 | 64 | 11.0 | 8 | 1.4 | 8 | 1.4 |

| | Poisoning | | Injuries cause by a vehicle ¹ | | Other ² | | Unknown | | Total | |
|-------------------|----------------------|---------|---|---------|----------------------|---------|----------------------|---------|----------------------|---------|
| | Number of victims | Percent | Number of victims | Percent | Number of victims | Percent | Number of victims | Percent | Number of victims | Percent |
| 1992 | 9 | 1.2 | ... | ... | 12 | 1.6 | 6 | 0.8 | 732 | 100 |
| 1993 | 6 | 1.0 | ... | ... | 21 | 3.3 | 4 | 0.6 | 627 | 100 |
| 1994 | 11 | 1.8 | ... | ... | 22 | 3.7 | 6 | 1.0 | 596 | 100 |
| 1995 | 6 | 1.0 | ... | ... | 6 | 1.0 | 6 | 1.0 | 588 | 100 |
| 1996 | 6 | 0.9 | ... | ... | 12 | 1.9 | 11 | 1.7 | 635 | 100 |
| 1997 | 8 | 1.4 | 6 | 1.0 | 2 | 0.3 | 5 | 0.9 | 586 | 100 |
| 1998 | 6 | 1.1 | 3 | 0.5 | 2 | 0.4 | 6 | 1.1 | 558 | 100 |
| 1999 | 5 | 0.9 | 13 | 2.4 | 6 | 1.1 | 8 | 1.5 | 538 | 100 |
| 2000 | 4 | 0.7 | 14 | 2.6 | 4 | 0.7 | 7 | 1.3 | 546 | 100 |
| 2001 ^r | 8 | 1.4 | 5 | 0.9 | 5 | 0.9 | 8 | 1.4 | 553 | 100 |
| 2002 | 3 | 0.5 | 6 | 1.0 | 9 | 1.5 | 29 | 5.0 | 582 | 100 |

... figures not applicable or not appropriate
^r revised

¹ Data available since 1997.

² Other includes heart attacks, exposure / hypothermia and, prior to 1997, Shaken Baby Syndrome and deaths caused by vehicles.

Source: Homicide Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

Table 8

Homicides involving Firearms, Canada, 1992-2002

| Year | Handgun | | Rifle/Shotgun | | Fully automatic firearm | | Sawed-off rifle/ shotgun | | Other firearms | | Total | |
|-------------------|----------------------|------------------------------|----------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------|------------------------------|----------------------|---|
| | Number of victims | % of firearm homicides | Number of victims | % of firearm homicides | Number of victims | % of firearm homicides | Number of victims | % of firearm homicides | Number of victims | % of firearm homicides | Number of victims | Homicides involving firearms as a % of total homicides |
| 1992 | 129 | 52.2 | 91 | 36.8 | 12 | 4.9 | 15 | 6.1 | 0 | 0.0 | 247 | 33.7 |
| 1993 | 91 | 46.7 | 75 | 38.5 | 11 | 5.6 | 17 | 8.7 | 1 | 0.5 | 195 | 31.1 |
| 1994 | 90 | 45.9 | 66 | 33.7 | 14 | 7.1 | 26 | 13.3 | 0 | 0.0 | 196 | 32.9 |
| 1995 | 95 | 54.0 | 64 | 36.4 | 2 | 1.1 | 15 | 8.5 | 0 | 0.0 | 176 | 29.9 |
| 1996 | 107 | 50.5 | 81 | 38.2 | 8 | 3.8 | 16 | 7.5 | 0 | 0.0 | 212 | 33.4 |
| 1997 | 99 | 51.3 | 77 | 39.9 | 2 | 1.0 | 10 | 5.2 | 5 | 2.6 | 193 | 32.9 |
| 1998 | 70 | 46.4 | 51 | 33.8 | 12 | 7.9 | 14 | 9.3 | 4 | 2.6 | 151 | 27.1 |
| 1999 | 89 | 53.9 | 58 | 35.2 | 6 | 3.6 | 6 | 3.6 | 6 | 3.6 | 165 | 30.7 |
| 2000 | 108 | 58.7 | 57 | 31.0 | 4 | 2.2 | 11 | 6.0 | 4 | 2.2 | 184 | 33.7 |
| 2001 | 110 | 64.3 | 46 | 26.9 | 3 | 1.8 | 7 | 4.1 | 5 | 2.9 | 171 | 30.9 |
| 2002 | 98 | 65.8 | 37 | 24.8 | 3 | 2.0 | 6 | 4.0 | 5 | 3.4 | 149 | 25.6 |
| Average 1992-2001 | 99 | 52.4 | 67 | 35.0 | 7 | 3.9 | 14 | 7.2 | 3 | 1.4 | 189 | 31.6 |

Source: Homicide Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

Table 9

Solved Homicides by Accused-Victim Relationship¹, Canada

| Relationship Type (Victims killed by:) | 2002 | | 2001 ^r | | Average 1992-2001 | |
|---|-------------------|--------------|-------------------|--------------|-------------------|--------------|
| | Number of victims | Percent | Number of victims | Percent | Number of victims | Percent |
| Family Relationship | | | | | | |
| Spousal Relationship | | | | | | |
| Husband (legal and common-law) | 46 | 10.2 | 52 | 12.0 | 48 | 10.0 |
| Husband (separated and divorced) | 21 | 4.6 | 17 | 3.9 | 17 | 3.6 |
| Wife (legal and common-law) | 14 | 3.1 | 13 | 3.0 | 15 | 3.2 |
| Wife (separated and divorced) | 2 | 0.4 | 3 | 0.7 | 2 | 0.4 |
| (Ex) Same sex spouse ² | 1 | 0.2 | 1 | 0.2 | 1 | 0.2 |
| Total Spousal | 84 | 18.6 | 86 | 19.8 | 82 | 17.2 |
| Non-Spousal Relationship | | | | | | |
| Father | 28 | 6.2 | 26 | 6.0 | 27 | 5.7 |
| Mother | 8 | 1.8 | 17 | 3.9 | 16 | 3.4 |
| Child | 26 | 5.8 | 25 | 5.7 | 19 | 4.0 |
| Sibling | 11 | 2.4 | 8 | 1.8 | 9 | 2.0 |
| Other family relation ³ | 25 | 5.5 | 21 | 4.8 | 19 | 4.0 |
| Total Non-Spousal | 98 | 21.7 | 97 | 22.3 | 91 | 19.1 |
| Total Family | 182 | 40.3 | 183 | 42.1 | 173 | 36.3 |
| Acquaintance | | | | | | |
| (Ex) Boyfriend/girlfriend/other intimate | 16 | 3.5 | 12 | 2.8 | 22 | 4.6 |
| Close friend | 29 | 6.4 | 28 | 6.4 | 30 | 6.3 |
| Neighbour | 6 | 1.3 | 24 | 5.5 | 21 | 4.4 |
| Casual acquaintance | 100 | 22.1 | 90 | 20.7 | 105 | 22.0 |
| Business associate (legal) | 10 | 2.2 | 12 | 2.8 | 13 | 2.8 |
| Criminal relationships ⁴ | 37 | 8.2 | 28 | 6.4 | 36 | 7.6 |
| Authority figure ² | 2 | 0.4 | 1 | 0.2 | 3 | 0.7 |
| Total Acquaintance | 200 | 44.2 | 195 | 44.8 | 229 | 48.1 |
| Stranger | 69 | 15.3 | 54 | 12.4 | 69 | 14.5 |
| Unknown relationship | 1 | 0.2 | 3 | 0.7 | 4 | 0.9 |
| TOTAL SOLVED HOMICIDES | 452 | 100.0 | 435 | 100.0 | 476 | 100.0 |
| Unsolved homicides | 130 | ... | 118 | ... | 120 | ... |
| TOTAL HOMICIDES | 582 | ... | 553 | ... | 596 | ... |

... figures not appropriate or not applicable

^r revised¹ Includes only those homicides in which there were known accused. If there were more than one accused, only the closest relationship to the victim was recorded.² Authority figure and same sex spouse were added to the survey in 1997; therefore, ten-year average cannot be calculated. The average is calculated on 5 years, 1997 to 2001.³ Other family includes: nieces, nephews, grandchildren, brothers-in-law, sisters-in-law, fathers-in-law, mothers-in-law, uncles, aunts, cousins, etc., related by blood or by common-law.⁴ Criminal relationships include prostitutes, drug dealers and their clients.**Source:** Homicide Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

Table 10

Victims of Spousal Homicide by Region

| Region | 2002 | | 2001 ^r | | Average 1992-2001 | |
|--------------------------|-----------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| | Number | Rate ¹ | Number | Rate ¹ | Number | Rate ¹ |
| Atlantic | 1 | 0.8 | 4 | 3.1 | 6 | 4.6 |
| Québec | 24 | 6.2 | 16 | 4.2 | 17 | 4.4 |
| Ontario | 25 | 3.9 | 37 | 5.9 | 28 | 4.8 |
| Manitoba | 2 | 3.4 | 2 | 3.4 | 3 | 5.9 |
| Saskatchewan | 4 | 7.8 | 3 | 5.8 | 4 | 8.0 |
| Alberta | 15 | 9.2 | 11 | 6.9 | 10 | 6.9 |
| British Columbia | 13 | 5.8 | 11 | 4.9 | 13 | 6.1 |
| Territoires ² | 0 | ... | 2 | ... | 1 | ... |
| Canada | 84 | 5.1 | 86 | 5.2 | 82 | 5.3 |

^r revised

¹ Rates are calculated per 1,000,000 married persons (married includes legal, common-law and separated), 15+ years.

² Rates are not calculated for the territories due to small populations.

Population estimates at July 1st, provided by Statistics Canada, Census and Demographic Statistics, Demography Division.

2001: Updated postcensal 2002: Preliminary postcensal

Source: Homicide Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

Table 11

Children (<12 years) Killed by Parents, Canada, 1992-2002

| Year | Number of incidents | Number of victims | Parent-child homicides as a % of all homicide incidents | Number of Accused in Parent-Child Homicides | | | |
|-------------------|---------------------|-------------------|---|---|-------------|--------|-------------|
| | | | | Father | Step-Father | Mother | Step-Mother |
| 1992 | 28 | 32 | 4.2 | 10 | 1 | 17 | 0 |
| 1993 ^r | 31 | 32 | 5.2 | 13 | 4 | 14 | 0 |
| 1994 | 40 | 43 | 7.2 | 20 | 4 | 16 | 0 |
| 1995 | 32 | 36 | 5.7 | 18 | 2 | 11 | 1 |
| 1996 | 37 | 41 | 6.4 | 19 | 6 | 12 | 0 |
| 1997 ^r | 44 | 53 | 8.2 | 18 | 3 | 22 | 1 |
| 1998 | 41 | 47 | 7.7 | 22 | 3 | 15 | 1 |
| 1999 | 23 | 26 | 4.6 | 13 | 3 | 7 | 0 |
| 2000 | 24 | 27 | 4.7 | 11 | 4 | 9 | 0 |
| 2001 ^r | 25 | 30 | 4.9 | 12 | 2 | 10 | 1 |
| 2002 | 25 | 31 | 4.5 | 14 | 4 | 7 | 0 |
| Average 1992-2001 | 33 | 37 | 5.9 | 16 | 3 | 13 | 0 |

^r revised

Source: Homicide Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

Table 12

Youths (12-17 years) Accused of Homicide, Canada, 1992-2002

| Year | Number | | | Rate per 100,000 youth population ¹ | | | Total youth as % of total accused |
|-------------------|--------|--------|-------|--|--------|-------|-----------------------------------|
| | Male | Female | Total | Male | Female | Total | |
| 1992 ^r | 53 | 5 | 58 | 4.47 | 0.45 | 2.52 | 8.7 |
| 1993 | 34 | 3 | 37 | 2.84 | 0.26 | 1.59 | 6.7 |
| 1994 | 53 | 6 | 59 | 4.37 | 0.52 | 2.50 | 10.2 |
| 1995 | 53 | 15 | 68 | 4.32 | 1.29 | 2.85 | 11.8 |
| 1996 | 48 | 3 | 51 | 3.87 | 0.26 | 2.11 | 9.2 |
| 1997 | 44 | 11 | 55 | 3.51 | 0.93 | 2.25 | 10.7 |
| 1998 | 54 | 3 | 57 | 4.29 | 0.25 | 2.33 | 10.8 |
| 1999 | 36 | 9 | 45 | 2.86 | 0.75 | 1.84 | 9.3 |
| 2000 | 38 | 5 | 43 | 3.02 | 0.42 | 1.75 | 9.1 |
| 2001 ^r | 25 | 5 | 30 | 1.97 | 0.42 | 1.21 | 6.1 |
| 2002 | 33 | 9 | 42 | 2.57 | 0.74 | 1.68 | 8.0 |
| Average 1992-2001 | 44 | 7 | 50 | 3.55 | 0.56 | 2.09 | 9.3 |

^r revised

¹ Population estimates at July 1st, provided by Statistics Canada, Census and Demographic Statistics, Demography Division.

Estimate population used: 1992-1995: Final intercensal estimates 1996-1999: Final postcensal estimates

2000-2001: Updated postcensal estimates 2002: Preliminary postcensal estimates

Source: Homicide Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

Table 13

Number of Homicides, by Province/Territory, 1961-2002

| Year | N.L. | P.E.I. | N.S. | N.B. | Que. | Ont. | Man. | Sask. | Alta. | B.C. ¹ | Yukon | N.W.T. ² | Nvt. | Canada ¹ |
|-------------------|------|--------|------|------|------|------|------|-------|-------|-------------------|-------|---------------------|------|---------------------|
| 1961 | 1 | 1 | 5 | 2 | 42 | 75 | 10 | 10 | 14 | 24 | 1 | 0 | ... | 233 |
| 1962 | 0 | 0 | 8 | 5 | 44 | 69 | 13 | 12 | 15 | 48 | 3 | 0 | ... | 265 |
| 1963 | 3 | 0 | 3 | 5 | 57 | 72 | 11 | 7 | 25 | 28 | 3 | 1 | ... | 249 |
| 1964 | 4 | 0 | 11 | 5 | 46 | 66 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 31 | 1 | 3 | ... | 253 |
| 1965 | 5 | 4 | 10 | 5 | 58 | 66 | 10 | 12 | 16 | 52 | 3 | 2 | ... | 277 |
| 1966 | 2 | 1 | 8 | 6 | 50 | 57 | 17 | 12 | 24 | 45 | 0 | 0 | ... | 250 |
| 1967 | 0 | 0 | 8 | 4 | 63 | 97 | 12 | 19 | 33 | 38 | 6 | 2 | ... | 338 |
| 1968 | 4 | 0 | 9 | 3 | 83 | 88 | 25 | 21 | 22 | 59 | 1 | 0 | ... | 375 |
| 1969 | 4 | 1 | 12 | 1 | 117 | 94 | 26 | 29 | 16 | 46 | 0 | 1 | ... | 391 |
| 1970 | 1 | 1 | 14 | 8 | 135 | 109 | 26 | 22 | 37 | 68 | 5 | 7 | ... | 467 |
| 1971 | 2 | 0 | 15 | 9 | 116 | 133 | 28 | 28 | 40 | 53 | 0 | 2 | ... | 473 |
| 1972 | 2 | 1 | 14 | 9 | 150 | 132 | 35 | 27 | 29 | 78 | 2 | 2 | ... | 521 |
| 1973 | 3 | 0 | 15 | 13 | 134 | 145 | 36 | 19 | 30 | 78 | 3 | 4 | ... | 546 |
| 1974 | 3 | 2 | 8 | 21 | 169 | 160 | 42 | 31 | 44 | 107 | 5 | 8 | ... | 600 |
| 1975 | 4 | 0 | 14 | 12 | 226 | 206 | 37 | 36 | 57 | 98 | 6 | 5 | ... | 701 |
| 1976 | 6 | 2 | 25 | 14 | 205 | 183 | 31 | 34 | 68 | 88 | 4 | 8 | ... | 668 |
| 1977 | 8 | 1 | 14 | 38 | 197 | 192 | 44 | 46 | 70 | 91 | 6 | 4 | ... | 711 |
| 1978 | 9 | 4 | 13 | 27 | 180 | 182 | 39 | 32 | 84 | 85 | 2 | 4 | ... | 661 |
| 1979 | 5 | 0 | 17 | 11 | 186 | 175 | 44 | 36 | 56 | 90 | 4 | 7 | ... | 631 |
| 1980 | 3 | 1 | 12 | 9 | 181 | 158 | 31 | 31 | 55 | 105 | 2 | 4 | ... | 592 |
| 1981 | 4 | 1 | 11 | 17 | 186 | 170 | 41 | 29 | 73 | 110 | 1 | 5 | ... | 648 |
| 1982 | 6 | 0 | 12 | 13 | 190 | 184 | 35 | 39 | 70 | 109 | 2 | 7 | ... | 667 |
| 1983 | 6 | 0 | 13 | 11 | 190 | 202 | 40 | 33 | 75 | 108 | 1 | 3 | ... | 682 |
| 1984 | 6 | 0 | 15 | 14 | 198 | 190 | 43 | 30 | 54 | 110 | 2 | 5 | ... | 667 |
| 1985 ³ | 5 | 1 | 26 | 14 | 219 | 193 | 26 | 28 | 63 | 113 | 6 | 10 | ... | 704 |
| 1986 | 4 | 0 | 15 | 12 | 156 | 139 | 47 | 26 | 64 | 89 | 3 | 14 | ... | 569 |
| 1987 | 5 | 0 | 14 | 20 | 174 | 204 | 44 | 30 | 73 | 78 | 0 | 2 | ... | 644 |
| 1988 | 7 | 1 | 11 | 8 | 154 | 186 | 31 | 23 | 66 | 80 | 1 | 8 | ... | 576 |
| 1989 | 5 | 1 | 16 | 18 | 215 | 175 | 43 | 22 | 67 | 86 | 2 | 7 | ... | 657 |
| 1990 | 0 | 1 | 9 | 12 | 184 | 182 | 39 | 36 | 74 | 110 | 1 | 12 | ... | 660 |
| 1991 | 10 | 2 | 21 | 17 | 181 | 245 | 42 | 21 | 84 | 128 | 0 | 3 | ... | 754 |
| 1992 | 2 | 0 | 21 | 11 | 166 | 242 | 29 | 32 | 92 | 122 | 2 | 13 | ... | 732 |
| 1993 | 7 | 2 | 19 | 11 | 159 | 192 | 31 | 30 | 49 | 120 | 0 | 7 | ... | 627 |
| 1994 | 4 | 1 | 19 | 15 | 126 | 192 | 29 | 24 | 66 | 113 | 3 | 4 | ... | 596 |
| 1995 | 5 | 1 | 17 | 14 | 135 | 181 | 27 | 21 | 60 | 120 | 4 | 3 | ... | 588 |
| 1996 | 7 | 1 | 18 | 9 | 154 | 187 | 45 | 32 | 53 | 125 | 0 | 4 | ... | 635 |
| 1997 | 7 | 0 | 24 | 8 | 132 | 178 | 31 | 25 | 61 | 116 | 1 | 3 | ... | 586 |
| 1998 | 7 | 1 | 24 | 5 | 137 | 156 | 33 | 33 | 64 | 90 | 3 | 5 | ... | 558 |
| 1999 | 2 | 1 | 13 | 9 | 137 | 162 | 26 | 13 | 61 | 110 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 538 |
| 2000 | 6 | 3 | 15 | 10 | 150 | 156 | 30 | 26 | 59 | 85 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 546 |
| 2001 ^r | 1 | 2 | 9 | 8 | 140 | 170 | 34 | 27 | 70 | 84 | 1 | 4 | 3 | 553 |
| 2002 | 2 | 1 | 9 | 9 | 118 | 178 | 36 | 27 | 70 | 126 | 0 | 4 | 2 | 582 |

... figures not appropriate or not applicable

^r revised¹ Part of the increase seen in 2002 is a result of 15 homicides which occurred in Port Coquitlam in previous years being reported by police in 2002. Homicide counts reflect the year in which police file the homicide report.² Includes Nunavut before 1999.³ Excludes 329 victims killed in the Air India incident.

Source: Homicide Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

Table 14

Homicide Victim Rates¹, by Province/Territory, 1961-2002²

| Year | N.L. | P.E.I. | N.S. | N.B. | Que. | Ont. | Man. | Sask. | Alta. | B.C. ³ | Yukon | N.W.T. ⁴ | Nvt. | Canada ⁵ |
|-------------------|------|--------|------|------|------|------|------|-------|-------|-------------------|-------|---------------------|-------|---------------------|
| 1961 | 0.22 | 0.96 | 0.68 | 0.33 | 0.80 | 1.20 | 1.08 | 1.08 | 1.05 | 1.47 | 6.84 | 0.00 | ... | 1.28 |
| 1962 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 1.07 | 0.83 | 0.82 | 1.09 | 1.39 | 1.29 | 1.10 | 2.89 | 19.99 | 0.00 | ... | 1.43 |
| 1963 | 0.63 | 0.00 | 0.40 | 0.82 | 1.04 | 1.11 | 1.16 | 0.75 | 1.78 | 1.65 | 20.01 | 3.89 | ... | 1.32 |
| 1964 | 0.83 | 0.00 | 1.46 | 0.82 | 0.82 | 1.00 | 1.67 | 1.81 | 1.26 | 1.78 | 6.69 | 11.18 | ... | 1.31 |
| 1965 | 1.03 | 3.69 | 1.32 | 0.81 | 1.02 | 0.97 | 1.04 | 1.26 | 1.10 | 2.89 | 20.57 | 7.29 | ... | 1.41 |
| 1966 | 0.41 | 0.92 | 1.06 | 0.97 | 0.86 | 0.82 | 1.77 | 1.26 | 1.64 | 2.40 | 0.00 | 0.00 | ... | 1.25 |
| 1967 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 1.05 | 0.65 | 1.07 | 1.36 | 1.25 | 1.99 | 2.21 | 1.95 | 39.97 | 6.89 | ... | 1.66 |
| 1968 | 0.79 | 0.00 | 1.17 | 0.48 | 1.40 | 1.21 | 2.57 | 2.19 | 1.44 | 2.95 | 6.65 | 0.00 | ... | 1.81 |
| 1969 | 0.78 | 0.90 | 1.55 | 0.16 | 1.95 | 1.27 | 2.66 | 3.03 | 1.03 | 2.23 | 0.00 | 3.22 | ... | 1.86 |
| 1970 | 0.19 | 0.91 | 1.79 | 1.28 | 2.25 | 1.44 | 2.64 | 2.34 | 2.32 | 3.20 | 29.38 | 21.21 | ... | 2.19 |
| 1971 | 0.38 | 0.00 | 1.88 | 1.40 | 1.89 | 1.69 | 2.80 | 3.00 | 2.40 | 2.37 | 0.00 | 5.49 | ... | 2.15 |
| 1972 | 0.37 | 0.88 | 1.75 | 1.39 | 2.43 | 1.66 | 3.49 | 2.93 | 1.71 | 3.39 | 9.93 | 5.16 | ... | 2.34 |
| 1973 | 0.55 | 0.00 | 1.85 | 1.98 | 2.16 | 1.80 | 3.57 | 2.08 | 1.74 | 3.29 | 14.19 | 9.82 | ... | 2.43 |
| 1974 | 0.55 | 1.72 | 0.98 | 3.16 | 2.70 | 1.95 | 4.12 | 3.41 | 2.51 | 4.38 | 23.73 | 19.45 | ... | 2.63 |
| 1975 | 0.72 | 0.00 | 1.69 | 1.77 | 3.57 | 2.48 | 3.61 | 3.92 | 3.15 | 3.92 | 27.39 | 11.67 | ... | 3.03 |
| 1976 | 1.07 | 1.69 | 2.99 | 2.03 | 3.20 | 2.17 | 3.00 | 3.65 | 3.64 | 3.47 | 17.80 | 18.05 | ... | 2.85 |
| 1977 | 1.42 | 0.83 | 1.67 | 5.46 | 3.06 | 2.26 | 4.24 | 4.87 | 3.59 | 3.54 | 26.27 | 8.96 | ... | 3.00 |
| 1978 | 1.59 | 3.29 | 1.54 | 3.86 | 2.79 | 2.12 | 3.75 | 3.36 | 4.15 | 3.25 | 8.42 | 8.84 | ... | 2.76 |
| 1979 | 0.88 | 0.00 | 2.00 | 1.56 | 2.88 | 2.02 | 4.24 | 3.75 | 2.67 | 3.38 | 16.67 | 15.31 | ... | 2.61 |
| 1980 | 0.52 | 0.81 | 1.41 | 1.27 | 2.78 | 1.81 | 3.00 | 3.20 | 2.51 | 3.83 | 8.22 | 8.64 | ... | 2.41 |
| 1981 | 0.70 | 0.81 | 1.29 | 2.41 | 2.84 | 1.93 | 3.96 | 2.97 | 3.18 | 3.90 | 4.18 | 10.51 | ... | 2.61 |
| 1982 | 1.04 | 0.00 | 1.40 | 1.84 | 2.89 | 2.06 | 3.34 | 3.95 | 2.96 | 3.79 | 8.17 | 14.14 | ... | 2.66 |
| 1983 | 1.04 | 0.00 | 1.50 | 1.54 | 2.88 | 2.23 | 3.77 | 3.29 | 3.14 | 3.72 | 4.23 | 5.88 | ... | 2.69 |
| 1984 | 1.03 | 0.00 | 1.71 | 1.94 | 2.99 | 2.07 | 4.01 | 2.95 | 2.26 | 3.73 | 8.36 | 9.51 | ... | 2.60 |
| 1985 ⁵ | 0.86 | 0.78 | 2.94 | 1.93 | 3.29 | 2.08 | 2.40 | 2.73 | 2.62 | 3.80 | 24.63 | 18.38 | ... | 2.72 |
| 1986 | 0.69 | 0.00 | 1.69 | 1.65 | 2.33 | 1.47 | 4.31 | 2.53 | 2.63 | 2.96 | 12.26 | 25.60 | ... | 2.18 |
| 1987 | 0.87 | 0.00 | 1.57 | 2.75 | 2.57 | 2.12 | 4.01 | 2.90 | 3.00 | 2.56 | 0.00 | 3.63 | ... | 2.43 |
| 1988 | 1.22 | 0.77 | 1.23 | 1.10 | 2.25 | 1.89 | 2.81 | 2.24 | 2.69 | 2.57 | 3.76 | 14.36 | ... | 2.15 |
| 1989 | 0.87 | 0.77 | 1.77 | 2.45 | 3.10 | 1.73 | 3.90 | 2.16 | 2.68 | 2.69 | 7.37 | 12.28 | ... | 2.41 |
| 1990 | 0.00 | 0.77 | 0.99 | 1.62 | 2.63 | 1.77 | 3.53 | 3.57 | 2.90 | 3.34 | 3.60 | 20.37 | ... | 2.38 |
| 1991 | 1.73 | 1.53 | 2.29 | 2.28 | 2.56 | 2.35 | 3.79 | 2.09 | 3.24 | 3.79 | 0.00 | 4.92 | ... | 2.69 |
| 1992 | 0.34 | 0.00 | 2.28 | 1.47 | 2.33 | 2.29 | 2.61 | 3.19 | 3.49 | 3.52 | 6.61 | 20.83 | ... | 2.58 |
| 1993 | 1.21 | 1.51 | 2.06 | 1.47 | 2.22 | 1.80 | 2.77 | 2.98 | 1.83 | 3.36 | 0.00 | 11.02 | ... | 2.18 |
| 1994 | 0.70 | 0.75 | 2.05 | 2.00 | 1.75 | 1.77 | 2.58 | 2.38 | 2.44 | 3.07 | 9.98 | 6.14 | ... | 2.05 |
| 1995 | 0.88 | 0.74 | 1.83 | 1.86 | 1.86 | 1.65 | 2.39 | 2.07 | 2.19 | 3.17 | 12.95 | 4.51 | ... | 2.00 |
| 1996 | 1.25 | 0.73 | 1.93 | 1.20 | 2.12 | 1.68 | 3.97 | 3.14 | 1.91 | 3.22 | 0.00 | 5.92 | ... | 2.14 |
| 1997 | 1.26 | 0.00 | 2.57 | 1.06 | 1.81 | 1.58 | 2.73 | 2.45 | 2.15 | 2.93 | 3.10 | 4.43 | ... | 1.95 |
| 1998 | 1.28 | 0.73 | 2.56 | 0.66 | 1.87 | 1.37 | 2.90 | 3.22 | 2.20 | 2.25 | 9.52 | 7.40 | ... | 1.84 |
| 1999 | 0.37 | 0.73 | 1.38 | 1.19 | 1.86 | 1.41 | 2.28 | 1.27 | 2.06 | 2.73 | 3.22 | 2.44 | 7.45 | 1.76 |
| 2000 | 1.12 | 2.17 | 1.59 | 1.32 | 2.03 | 1.33 | 2.62 | 2.54 | 1.96 | 2.09 | 6.54 | 2.45 | 10.91 | 1.77 |
| 2001 ^r | 0.19 | 1.44 | 0.95 | 1.06 | 1.89 | 1.43 | 2.96 | 2.65 | 2.29 | 2.05 | 3.31 | 9.70 | 10.67 | 1.78 |
| 2002 | 0.38 | 0.71 | 0.95 | 1.19 | 1.58 | 1.47 | 3.13 | 2.67 | 2.25 | 3.04 | 0.00 | 9.66 | 6.97 | 1.85 |

... figures not appropriate or not applicable.

^r revised

¹ Rates are calculated per 100,000 population. Population estimates at July 1st, provided by Statistics Canada, Census and Demographic Statistics, Demography Division.

Estimates of population used: 1961-1970: Final intercensal estimates

1971-1990: Revised Intercensal

1991-1995: Final intercensal estimates

1996-1999: Final postcensal estimates

2000-2001: Updated postcensal estimates

2002: Preliminary postcensal estimates

² As of 1971, population estimates were adjusted to reflect new methods of calculation.

³ Part of the increase seen in 2002 is a result of 15 homicides which occurred in Port Coquitlam in previous years being reported by police in 2002. Homicide counts reflect the year in which police file the homicide report.

⁴ Includes Nunavut until 1999.

⁵ Excludes 329 victims killed in the Air India incident.

Source: Homicide Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics

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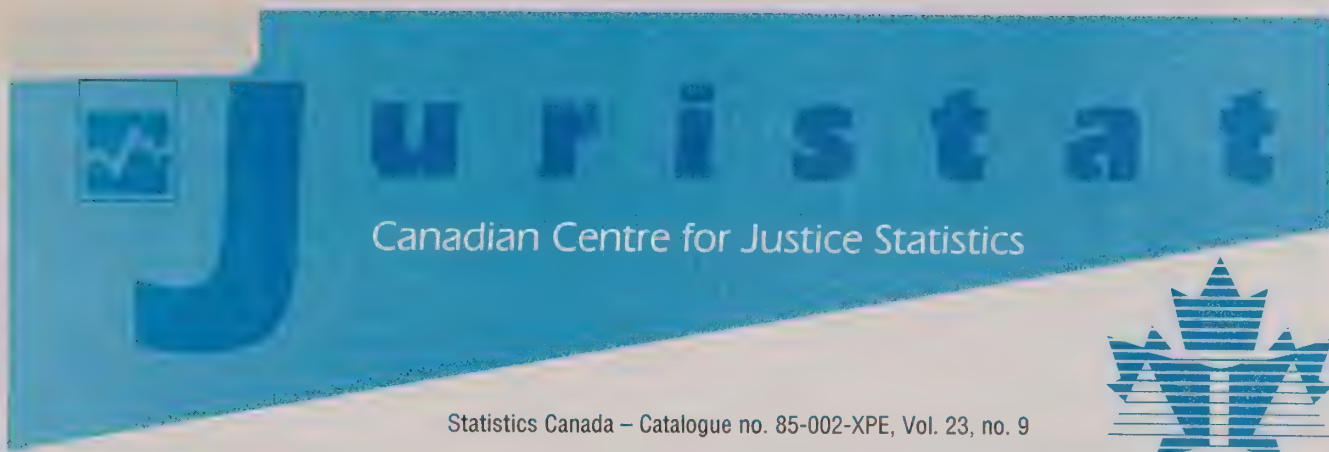
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IMPAIRED DRIVING AND OTHER TRAFFIC OFFENCES - 2002

by Derek Janhevich, Maire Gannon, and Nicolas Morisset

Highlights

- In 2002, the rate of police-reported impaired driving incidents decreased by 4% after a slight increase in 2001. This drop is consistent with the general decrease over the last twenty years. The 2002 rate is 65% lower than the peak in 1981.
- The downward trend since 1981 may be attributable to a number of factors, including changing attitudes with respect to impaired driving, aging of the general population, as well as other enforcement procedures used by the police such as roadside suspensions.
- Among provinces, the rate of persons charged with impaired driving ranged from 183 per 100,000 persons aged 16 and older in Newfoundland and Labrador to 618 in Saskatchewan.
- With the exception of Quebec which reported no change in the rate of persons charged with impaired driving, all provinces and territories reported decreases in 2002. Among provinces, Newfoundland and Labrador had the largest decrease (-19%) followed by New Brunswick (-12%) and Saskatchewan (-11%).
- The rate of persons accused of impaired driving offences was highest among young adults between the ages of 19 and 24 and lowest for those 65 and over.
- The rate of overall *Criminal Code* traffic incidents that involved fatalities or bodily harm has generally declined over the past 15 years.
- Almost three-quarters (73%) of court cases involving impaired driving resulted in a conviction and of these 14% were sentenced to custody.



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Introduction

The time spent in automobiles has increased substantially in recent years. According to Statistics Canada's 1998 General Social Survey on Time Use, on an average weekday, Canadians spent 6 more minutes travelling by car than they did in 1986 (Clark, 2000). In Canada, the average number of kilometres traveled during the week to go to work and return home rose from 85 km in 1986 to 100 km in 1998. Since cities are expanding, a larger proportion of people are living in suburbs and further from their workplace. People are spending much of their time in their personal vehicle, whether to go to work, to access leisure activities, or for personal needs. Additionally, according to the most recent data from the Canadian Vehicle Survey,¹ there were approximately 18.3 million road vehicles in 2002, compared with 17.6 in 1999.

This *Juristat* will analyze trends in impaired driving and other traffic offences under the *Criminal Code*. Points that may be useful in analyzing trends include new legislation on impaired driving; identification of variables that may be contributing to the general decline; and a brief examination of dangerous driving.

Police-reported statistics on impaired driving

A number of organizations and institutes have been collecting information on impaired driving over time; however the methodologies employed are somewhat different and therefore results differ as well (see text box "Different Methods of Data Collection").

Different Methods of Data Collection

A number of data sources exist on impaired driving and other traffic offences, and they all have strengths and limitations. For a more detailed description of these sources of data, refer to the Methodology and Data Sources section of this *Juristat*.

Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics (CCJS) – The CCJS collects information provided by the police as well as provincial adult courts. Police data on impaired driving and other *Criminal Code* traffic violations reflect those incidents and charges that come to the attention of the police. These data are subject to police operational and discretionary practices. The CCJS does not collect information on police-reported vehicle accidents, unless they are reported by the police as *Criminal Code* traffic violations. Court statistics reflect the number of cases involving a *Criminal Code* traffic violation that are processed through adult provincial criminal courts. It will not necessarily include all those cases that were processed by the police because of time lags, changes in the type of charge, and/or dropping of charges. As a result, the number of police incidents or charges and the number of cases appearing in court will not match.

Traffic Injury Research Foundation (TIRF) – The Foundation maintains a database on fatal accidents in Canada involving drivers, passengers and pedestrians since 1987. The data come from two information sources: police reports on accidents, and reports of coroners and medical examiners from all provinces. With respect to police data on accidents, most jurisdictions collect data on traffic crash frequencies from police reports. For an accident to be included in these counts, at least three things must happen: the accident must be reported to the police; the police must attend the accident; and a report must be written. Coroner data only include the sub-set of crashes that involve fatalities. Coroner data can suffer from the time lag between the actual death and the time the cause of death is determined and entered into a central data set, resulting in a lag in fatality count.

Transport Canada – The data, collected in co-operation with the Canadian Council of Motor Transport Administrators, include persons who died in connection with the death of an impaired driver. Often TIRF works in partnership with Transport Canada.

Mothers Against Drunk Drivers (MADD) Canada – This organization's data reflect not only drivers but also passengers who are under the influence of alcohol. Even if the driver has not consumed alcohol, intoxicated passengers are included in the statistics produced by MADD. If an intoxicated driver kills third party road users but he/she does not die, the victims will be included in the overall death statistics.

This *Juristat* will focus on police-reported impaired driving statistics, which refer to (1) incidents known to and substantiated by police and (2) persons charged with impaired driving. National-level analysis is based on these data.

¹ The available information dates only from 1999, since the data collection method has changed. It is not possible to compare the data with those for previous years.

It should be noted that revisions have been made to the number of actual impaired driving incidents for the RCMP in 2000 and 2001. These revisions resulted in a 6% reduction in actual incidents at the Canada level for 2000 and 9% for 2001, but did not affect the national impaired driving trend. The number of persons charged with impaired driving offences did not require revision.

Actual incidents are affected by variations in the way police forces determine if an impaired driving offence has occurred. Some police forces score suspected cases of impaired driving as actual incidents, when there is sufficient evidence. One example of such an incident involves family members of suspected impaired drivers contacting police with specific and substantial information about the quantity of alcohol consumed and that the vehicle was being driven by the suspect person. Scoring suspected incidents results in both a higher number of actual incidents and a smaller proportion of incidents that are cleared by police, relative to other forces. Persons charged data are not affected. Given that this variation in police practice may be unevenly distributed throughout Canada (Table 1), patterns of impaired driving at the provincial/territorial and CMA levels are analyzed using persons charged data.

This *Juristat* also provides analysis on cases of impaired driving processed in provincial adult criminal courts. Both recent year and trend analyses are presented.

Decrease is consistent with general downward trend

In 2002, the rate of impaired driving incidents (per 100,000 persons aged 16 and over) resumed its two decade downward trend (-4%), following a small increase in 2001. The rate of 321 was slightly lower than the rate reported in 2000 (323), the year before the increase. Nearly 81,000 incidents of impaired driving lead to approximately 67,000 persons charged in 2002. The rate of persons charged also decreased from 278 to 265 (Table 2). In addition, about 6,000 incidents were cleared otherwise through such means as roadside suspension, diplomatic immunity, or death of the accused.

Interpreting impaired driving statistics

There has been considerable debate concerning the factors influencing the trends in police-reported impaired driving offences. These include legislative changes, enforcement practices by the police, as well as important demographic shifts in the population and changing attitudes on drinking and driving.

Legislative Changes/Program Implementation

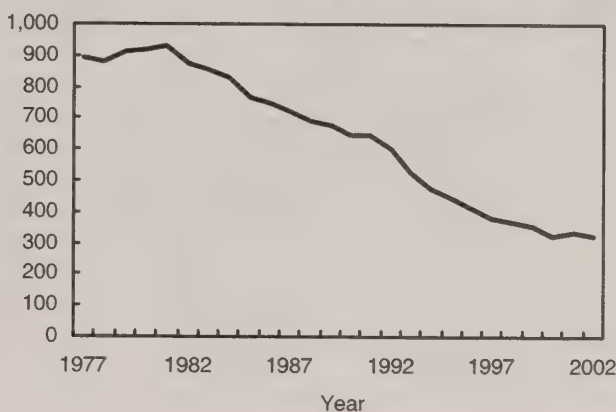
Some would argue that more restrictive laws have had an impact on the rate of impaired driving incidents (Safety Research Office, 1998; McCartt, Shabanova & Berning, 2002; Quaye & Boase, 2002; Solomon & Chamberlain, 2002). Trend data however, indicate that the rates started to decrease before the introduction of these stiffer laws (Figure 1; text box History and Amendments to the *Criminal Code*). The rate of impaired driving started to decrease during the early 1980s and continued into the 1990s. As a result of intense interest in this issue, both within the public and in government, actions were

taken on a number of fronts including the introduction of provincial/territorial legislation related to impaired driving, with such provisions as ignition interlock programs and vehicle forfeiture. Changes were made to the *Criminal Code*, and Health Canada launched its Dialogue on Drinking program in the early 1980s. The program heavily stressed the creation of public awareness to reduce the problem of impaired driving, in co-operation with the provinces and territories. A number of community awareness activities were organized, and numerous messages were broadcast on radio and television.

Figure 1

Rates of impaired driving incidents, Canada, 1977-2002

Rate per 100,000 population 16 years and older



Note: Early 1980s, Health Canada campaign on impaired driving.
Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, CCJS, Statistics Canada.

Police Enforcement Practices

Other explanations for the overall decrease in the rate of impaired driving offences in the 1980s and 1990s concern the increased use of roadside suspensions by police. In 1997, the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police and Transport Canada commissioned the National Survey of Front-Line Police Officers. In the study, which asked questions on police officer attitudes toward impaired driving, respondents indicated that they were likely to use roadside suspensions for cases where the blood-alcohol content (BAC) was slightly over the legal limit. In addition, the study concluded that the increase in the use of roadside suspensions is due to some of the following reasons: (i) time required to formally charge a person under the *Criminal Code*; (ii) resources required to process charges; and (iii) the fact that roadside suspensions immediately get impaired drivers off the road (Transport Canada, 1999).

In the past, these offences were generally not recorded in the UCR survey unless the driver was formally charged by police, meaning that the actual number of impaired driving incidents may have been slightly under-estimated in police-reported crime statistics. Beginning in 2001, some police forces began recording these incidents of impaired driving (where the driver was not formally charged) in the UCR survey as actual incidents

History of selected amendments to the *Criminal Code*

1921: Parliament creates, under the *Criminal Code*, the summary conviction offence of driving while intoxicated.

1925: Parliament extends the provision to include intoxication by a narcotic.

1930: The offence becomes a hybrid offence, enabling the Crown to choose to proceed by either summary conviction or indictment.

1951: The hybrid offence of driving while impaired by alcohol or any drug is added to the *Criminal Code*. Penalties are generally lower than for the driving while intoxicated offence. Chemical analysis of bodily substances is made admissible in evidence but there is no requirement for a suspect to provide any sample.

1969: Major amendments are made to the *Criminal Code*. The 1921 offence of driving while intoxicated is repealed. The 1951 offence of driving while impaired is retained and the "exceeds 80 mg.%" offence and the refusal to provide breath sample on an "approved instrument" offences are added as summary conviction offences.

1976: A refuse breath sample on an "approved screening device" offence is added to the *Criminal Code*. Refusal offences and "exceeds 80 mg.%" become hybrid offences. The penalties for impaired driving, refusing to provide samples and "exceeds 80 mg.%" offences are harmonized.

1985: The aircraft and vessel transportation modes are added to the offence provisions. Where impaired operation causes death, the maximum penalty is raised to 14 years imprisonment. Where impaired driving causes bodily harm, the maximum penalty is raised to 10 years imprisonment. Previously, the Crown could only prosecute under criminal negligence or manslaughter provisions if it wished to attract potentially high penalties for an alcohol related driving conviction. A provision is introduced permitting police to seek a warrant to obtain a blood sample from an unconscious alcohol-involved driver in certain circumstances. A mandatory driving prohibition period is introduced and some penalty adjustments are made.

1989: The railway mode is added to the offence provisions.

1994: The time for the police to seek a warrant to obtain a blood sample from an unconscious driver is extended from 2 hours to 4 hours.

1997: Amendment made to ensure that imprisonment time cannot be used to reduce the driving prohibition period. Also, evidence to rebut the presumption that the concentration of alcohol at the time of testing is the concentration at the time of driving must not only be different from the result of the sample analysis but must show that the concentration at the time of driving was lower than the "legal limit".

1999: Bill C-82 amended the *Criminal Code* to increase the maximum penalty for leaving the scene of an accident to life imprisonment and 10 years imprisonment, where there is a death or injury. The maximum penalty for driving while disqualified is increased from 2 years imprisonment to 5 years imprisonment.

The time for police to make a demand for a sample is increased from 2 hours to 3 hours.

In sentencing an offender, the judge must consider a blood alcohol concentration that exceeds 160 mg.% as an aggravating factor. Provisions are added to specify that a judge may make a term in a probation order requiring the offender to take treatment or to use an ignition interlock device. The minimum driving prohibition periods are increased on first, second and subsequent offences to 1, 2 and 3 years, respectively. Only a first offender is given the possibility of returning to driving during a part of the prohibition period if the offender is driving a vehicle equipped with an ignition interlock device under a provincial or territorial government program for the remainder of the driving prohibition period. The minimum fine for a first impaired driving offence is increased from \$300 to \$600.

2000: Bill C-18 amended the *Criminal Code* to increase the maximum penalty for impaired driving causing death from 14 years to life imprisonment. The provision allowing police, in certain circumstances, to seek a warrant to obtain a blood sample from an unconscious driver is extended to include a driver whom they believe is impaired by a drug.

2001: Parliament extends to repeat offenders the possibility of returning to driving during a part of the prohibition period if the offender is driving a vehicle equipped with an ignition interlock device under a provincial or territorial government program for the remainder of the driving prohibition period. It is up to the provinces and territories whether to offer such a program.

of impaired driving. This new scoring directive contributed to an increase in the number of actual incidents in 2001 and a corresponding rise in the percentage of incidents cleared by means other than by charge. Beginning in 2002, all police services were directed to begin scoring this way.

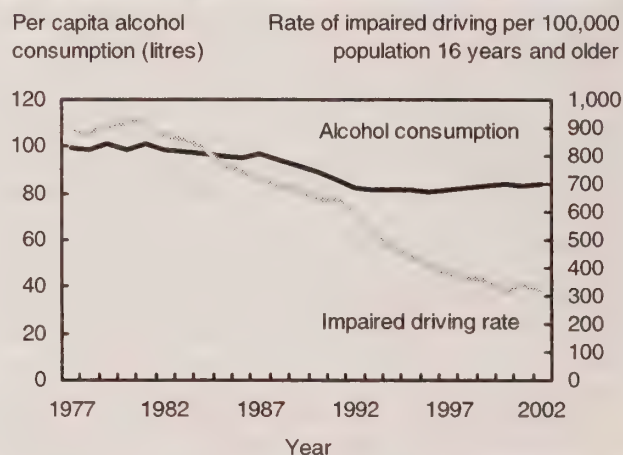
Changing Demographics and Societal Attitudes

The general decline in crime rates since the early 1980s coincided with a decrease in the proportion of young adults in the general population. Since young adults have higher rates of offending and victimization than other age groups, crime rates can be expected to decline as their share of the population declines (Ouimet, 2002). This can help explain the downward trend in the rate of impaired driving offences.

Also, some evidence suggests that individuals are more frequently choosing alternative means of transportation or relying on "designated drivers" when consuming alcohol outside the home. The drop in impaired driving rates occurred despite little change in alcohol consumption over the last decade (Figure 2).

Figure 2

Annual per capita alcohol consumption and rates of impaired driving incidents, Canada, 1977 to 2002



Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, CCJS, Statistics Canada and Statistics Canada (2003) Food Statistics. Vol. 2, no. 1, catalogue 21-020-XIE.

Majority of offences are for operating a vehicle while impaired or with BAC over 80 mg per 100 ml

Among approximately 81,000 impaired driving offences in 2002, the vast majority (94%) were classified by police as operating a vehicle while impaired or with a Blood Alcohol Content (BAC) over 80 mg³ (Table 3). The remaining offences were processed as failure to provide a breath or blood sample (5%) and impaired operation of a motor vehicle causing bodily harm or death (1%).⁴

Although these proportions have changed little over time, some variation exists in the type of impaired driving offences recorded by police. The number of incidents of impaired operation of *other vehicles* (i.e. watercraft, snowmobiles, vessels or aircraft) has fluctuated over the past 15 years and the 2002 number is similar to the number recorded in 1987.

Over the last ten years, incidents of failing or refusing to provide blood or breath samples have dropped by 63%. These types of incidents made up 5% of all impaired driving incidents in 2002, compared to 8% in 1992.

Saskatchewan continues to have highest rate of impaired driving charges

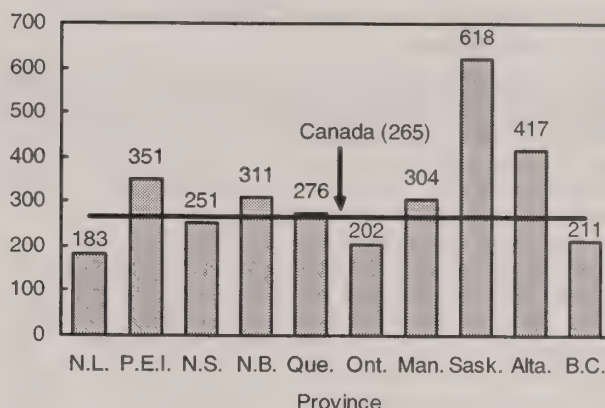
There is considerable variation across Canada, with rates of persons charged with impaired driving offences (per 100,000 persons 16 and older) ranging from 183 in Newfoundland and Labrador to 618 in Saskatchewan.

With the exception of Quebec which showed relatively no change from the previous year, all provinces reported decreases in the rate of persons charged with impaired driving in 2002. Newfoundland and Labrador (-19%) reported the largest decrease, followed by New Brunswick (-12%) and Saskatchewan (-11%) (Table 4).

Figure 3

Rate of persons charged with impaired driving, by province, 2002

Rate per 100,000 population 16 years and older



Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, CCJS, Statistics Canada.

The level of police resources available to the community could have an impact on charge data, especially for an offence like impaired driving that is driven to a significant degree by police-enforcement activities. In 2002, the same year that Saskatchewan reported the highest rate of impaired driving

³ These include offences under Section 253 (a) driving while the person's ability is impaired by alcohol or a drug and Section 253 (b) driving a vehicle with a BAC in excess of 80 mg of alcohol per 100 ml of blood.

⁴ For a more detailed description of impaired driving offences causing bodily harm and death, please refer to the section on Traffic Injuries and Fatalities of this Juristat.

Impaired driving under the Criminal Code:

Definition:

Operation while impaired / exceeding 80 mg.

Section 253 creates two distinct offences:

Everyone commits an offence who operates a motor vehicle or vessel or operates or assists in the operation of an aircraft or of railway equipment or has the care or control of a motor vehicle, vessel, aircraft or railway equipment, whether it is in motion or not,

- while the person's ability to operate the vehicle, vessel, aircraft or railway equipment is impaired by alcohol or a drug; or
- having consumed alcohol in such a quantity that the concentration in the person's blood exceeds 80 mg of alcohol/100 ml of blood.

Section 254(5) creates the offence of refusing without reasonable excuse to comply with a demand given by a peace officer to provide a breath or blood sample.

Penalties:

Section 255(1) provides for the following maximum penalties:

- where the offence is prosecuted by indictment, imprisonment for a term not exceeding 5 years;
- where the offence is punishable on summary conviction, imprisonment for a term not exceeding 6 months.

Minimum penalties under sections 253 and 254 are:

- for a first offence, a fine of not less than \$600;
- for a second offence, imprisonment for not less than 14 days;
- for a third offence, imprisonment for not less than 90 days.

Section 259 provides that everyone who is convicted under s. 253 (a) or (b) is prohibited from driving for a minimum of:

- 1 year for a first offence;
- 2 years for a second offence; or
- 3 years for a subsequent offence.

Section 259 also provides that an offender may operate a vehicle equipped with an ignition interlock device under a provincial program during the driving prohibition period if authorized to do so by a court but only after the offender has served:

- a minimum of three months of the driving prohibition (first offence);
- a minimum of six months of the driving prohibition (second offence); or
- a minimum of one year of the driving prohibition (subsequent offences).

Section 255(2) provides that everyone who commits an offence under paragraph 253(a) and thereby causes bodily harm to any other person is guilty of an indictable offence and liable to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 10 years.

Section 255(3) provides that everyone who commits an offence under paragraph 253(a) and thereby causes the death of any other person is guilty of an indictable offence and liable to life imprisonment.

charges, it also had the highest police per capita among the provinces (Logan, 2002). However, more police officers do not necessarily translate into greater rates of impaired driving. Along with resource allocation, overall prevalence of impaired driving contributes to the rate of persons charged.

Regina - highest rate among Canada's Census Metropolitan Areas

Among Canada's Census Metropolitan Areas (CMAs), Regina reported the highest rate of persons charged with impaired driving (383 per 100,000 population 16 and older), followed by Trois-Rivières (355), Saskatoon (345), and Thunder Bay (293) (Table 5).⁵ The vast majority of CMAs reported lower rates than the Canadian average of 265.

While most of Canada's 25 CMAs continued to report declining rates of persons charged with impaired driving in 2002 (Table 3), 7 reported increases. The Quebec CMAs of Sherbrooke (+11%) and Saguenay (+9%) reported the largest increases, followed by Vancouver (+5%). Slight increases were reported by Calgary, Sudbury and Thunder Bay (3% each), and Trois-Rivières (2%).

Only three of the 25 CMAs reported increases over the last five years: Toronto (15%), St. Catharines-Niagara (8%), and Calgary (6%).

Of Canada's nine largest CMAs (total populations over 500,000), the two Alberta cities of Calgary and Edmonton reported the highest rate of persons charged with impaired driving (272 and 244, respectively). For the second consecutive year, Vancouver (135) and Hamilton (130) reported the lowest rates.

Characteristics of impaired driving

Some police departments report crime statistics to the Incident-Based UCR2 Survey, which gathers detailed characteristics about incidents, victims and offenders that are not available from the aggregate UCR survey including age of persons involved and the level of injury to victims. In 2002, the UCR2 Research database, a subset of the UCR2 database, includes 94 police agencies in 9 provinces.⁶ These data represent 56% of the national volume of reported actual *Criminal Code* incidents.⁷

Most impaired driving incidents involve automobiles

In 2002, the UCR2 Research database reveals that of those impaired driving incidents where the type of vehicle was known, 81% involved automobiles, 17% involved trucks, vans, buses or recreational vehicles, 1% involved other motorized land vehicles, and 1% involved vessels and other watercraft.

Impaired driving rates highest on weekends and in the early morning hours

According to UCR2 Research database, police were more likely to report impaired driving offences during the weekend (Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays). The weekend rate of impaired driving (143 per 100,000 persons 16 and older) was 1.7 times higher than the rate during the week (86). Rates of police-reported impaired driving incidents were highest on Saturdays and lowest on Tuesdays. As would be expected, overall rates were also highest between midnight and 4 a.m. (115).

Impaired driving rates were highest in June (21 per 100,000 persons 16 and older) and lowest in January and February (16 and 17).⁸

⁵ Police forces forming the CMAs may enforce traffic offences outside the boundaries of the CMAs.

⁶ The UCR2 is not nationally representative.

⁷ For a more detailed description, refer to the Methodology section of this Juristat.

⁸ Fewer days in February may partly contribute to its lower rate.

The effects of drug use when driving a motor vehicle

In Canada, the following provisions regarding drug use are set out in the *Criminal Code*. Subsection 253(a) of the *Criminal Code* makes it an offence to operate a motor vehicle while the driver's ability to do so is impaired by a drug or alcohol. Police may only seek a warrant under section 256 to obtain a blood sample from an unconscious driver where they believe the driver to be impaired by alcohol or a drug and to have been involved in a collision where there was injury or death. Otherwise, police powers for obtaining evidence of the s. 253(a) drug impaired driving offence are limited, compared to situations involving suspects who have a BAC exceeding 80 milligrams of alcohol in 100 millilitres of blood (s. 253(b)). In fact, a police officer has no authority under the *Code* to demand that a suspect provide evidence in the form of a bodily substance for the purposes of drug testing, even if there are reasonable grounds to believe the suspect is impaired by a drug. Subsection 258(5) does authorize testing for drugs on a blood sample that has been obtained for alcohol testing through a section 254 demand. In some jurisdictions, there is a program to assist officers to recognize the presence of drugs. Under this program, first developed in the United States, police officers are trained to assess the behaviour and physical appearance of impaired drivers to determine whether they are under the influence of a drug, and if so, to identify the category of drugs involved.

The most commonly used drugs that are likely to interfere with driving have the following effects:

Cannabis: - Disruption of vision, especially night vision; increased recovery time after exposure to glare; poor appreciation of distances; poor colour perception, difficulties coming out of a turn; and difficulties concentrating.

Heroin and morphine: Loss of attention; diminished reflexes, sense of reality and awareness of danger and obstacles. In low dosage: risk of loss of control of vehicle through drowsiness, cardiac or respiratory pain. In high dosage: delirium, hallucinations, motor excitement.

Cocaine: Sensation of euphoria with excessive self-confidence, desire to perform, alteration of vision, increased risk-taking, and aggressiveness.

Ecstasy-type derivatives: Fatigue, fever, muscular rigidity, and accommodation problems (owing to mydriasis, or dilation of the pupil).

How many Canadians drive after drinking?

The Traffic Injury Research Foundation (TIRF) administers an annual survey entitled *The Road Safety Monitor*, which asks Canadians 16 years and older a number of questions on issues related to road safety. In 2002 7.9% of Canadian drivers said that they had driven in the past year while they thought they were over the legal limit. This represents an estimated 1.7 million Canadians who drove when they thought they were impaired.

With respect to demographic characteristics of impaired drivers, young drivers (16 to 18) and older drivers (age 65 and over) were least likely and those between 19 and 34 were most likely to report driving after drinking (Beirness, Simpson & Desmond, 2002).

Most persons charged are male

According to the aggregate UCR survey, although the vast majority of persons charged with impaired driving offences continue to be men (87%), the proportion of women charged has steadily increased from 8% in 1986 to 13% in 2002.

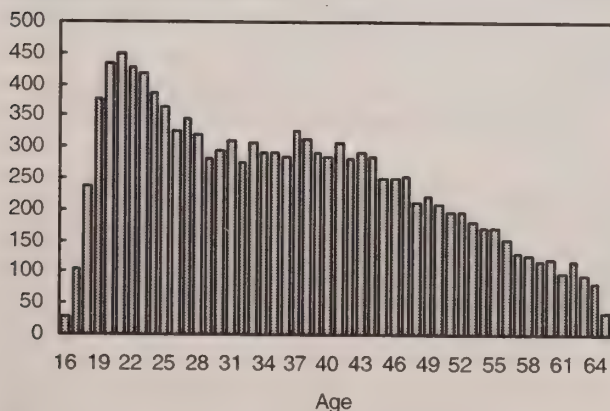
Highest rates reported among young adults aged 19 to 24

The UCR2 Research database indicates that the rate of persons accused of impaired driving offences by this group of police departments was highest among those between the ages of 19 and 24 (416 per 100,000 persons aged 19 to 24). The highest single-age impaired driving rate occurred among 21 year olds, at 449 (Figure 4). Rates leveled off and remained relatively constant for 25 to 44 year olds, while accused persons aged 65 and over had the lowest rate (36 per 100,000 persons 65 and over).

Figure 4

Rate of persons accused of impaired driving by age, 2002

Rate per 100,000 population



Note: Data are not nationally representative. Based on data from 94 police departments (excluding partial year respondents and OPP rural) representing 56% of the national volume of crime in 2002. The population for respondents having partial jurisdiction over certain CSDs has been adjusted in this table.

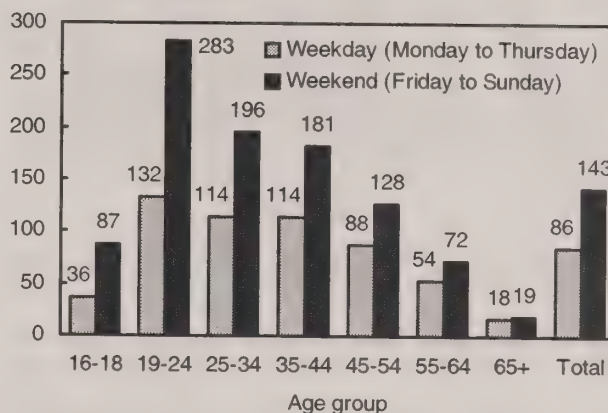
Source: Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, CCJS, Statistics Canada. Populations for police forces are derived based on estimates provided by the Demography Division of Statistics Canada. These populations are based on the 1996 Census geography boundaries.

Age-related patterns are consistent among persons accused of impaired driving offences on weekdays and those charged on weekends (Figure 5). The highest rates were found among 19 to 24 year olds charged on weekends (283 per 100,000 population).

Figure 5

Rate of persons accused of impaired driving during the week and weekend, 2002

Rate per 100,000 population



Note: Data are not nationally representative. Based on data from 94 police departments (excluding partial year respondents and OPP rural) representing 56% of the national volume of crime in 2002. The population for respondents having partial jurisdiction over certain CSDs has been adjusted in this table.

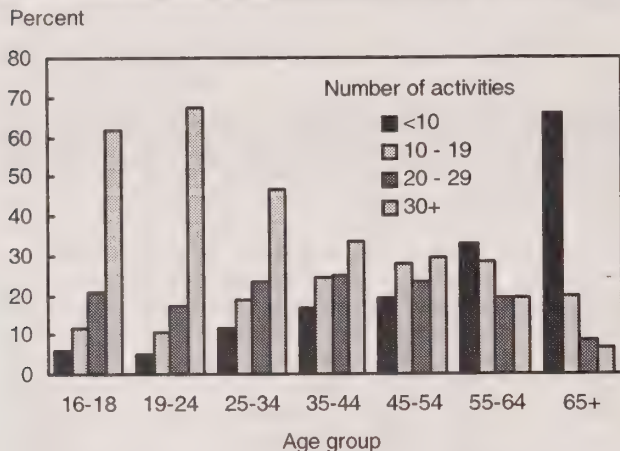
Source: Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, CCJS, Statistics Canada. Populations for police forces are derived based on estimates provided by the Demography Division of Statistics Canada. These populations are based on the 1996 Census geography boundaries.

Drinking and lifestyle patterns may explain the higher rates of impaired driving among young adults. According to the Canadian Community Health Survey (CCHS), persons between the ages of 20 to 24 report the highest rates of "regular heavy drinking" – defined as drinking five or more drinks on one occasion at least 12 times in the previous 12 months. In 2000/01, 37% of persons aged 20 to 24 reported being "regular heavy drinkers" compared to 25% of 25 to 34 year olds and 21% of persons between the ages of 35 and 44. This factor, combined with lifestyle, increases the potential for drinking and driving among young persons.

The number of evening activities outside the home can be an indicator of one's lifestyle. Compared to their older counterparts, young adults spend a greater number of evening activities outside the home (Figure 6). The 1999 General Social Survey indicates that two out of every three individuals aged 19 to 24 years engage in 30 or more evening activities in a month, versus less than half of persons aged 25 to 34 and a third of persons aged 35 to 44.

Figure 6

Number of evening activities outside of the home per month, by age group¹



¹ Excludes "don't know/not stated" responses.

Source: General Social Survey, 1999, Statistics Canada.

Other *Criminal Code* traffic violations

In 2002, police reported over 117,000 *Criminal Code* traffic violations. The majority of these were for impaired driving offences (69%) followed by failing to stop and remain (19%), dangerous driving offences (7%), and driving while disqualified (5%). The rate of dangerous driving was 34 incidents per 100,000 persons aged 16 and older (Table 6).

Among provinces, Saskatchewan reported the highest rate of incidents of dangerous driving (88), while Quebec reported the lowest rate (15).

Generally, over the past 15 years the rate of police-reported *Criminal Code* dangerous driving offences has fluctuated slightly from year to year; however in 2001 the rate increased sharply by 25% and remained fairly constant in 2002.

Traffic violations involving injuries and fatalities

Federal, provincial/territorial, and municipal governments and non-governmental organizations such as Mothers Against Drunk Drivers (MADD) and the Traffic Injury Research Foundation (TIRF) have taken an active role in monitoring impaired driving and other traffic violations and the threats to safety that such infractions pose.

Police-reported traffic violations causing death and bodily harm generally decreasing

According to police-reported statistics from the UCR survey, the overall rate of *Criminal Code* traffic incidents that involve fatalities or bodily harm has been generally decreasing (Table 7). The rate of incidents involving fatalities has been reduced by more than half over the last 16 years, declining from 2.4 (per 100,000 persons 16 and older) in 1986 to 1.0 in 2001 and 2002. The decline is associated with a reduction in fatalities related to both impaired and dangerous driving offences.

In the case of traffic violations resulting in bodily harm, most of the 41% decline since 1986 is associated with a reduction in injuries related to impaired driving incidents (a 49% decline). Rates in police-reported dangerous driving incidents causing bodily harm are down 20% since 1986.

Victim rates of traffic violations highest among young adults

Including *Criminal Code* traffic violations causing bodily harm or fatalities reported in 2002 by UCR2 survey respondents (including failure to stop or remain offences) the rate of personal victimization caused by traffic violations was 18 per 100,000 population.⁹ Just as accused impaired driving rates were highest among young adults between the ages of 19 and 24 so were the victim rates (43 per 100,000 population). Children and youth under 16 years of age had the lowest risk of victimization (6 per 100,000 population). Eighteen year-olds had the highest single-age victim rate, at 51 per 100,000 persons 18 years of age (Figure 7).

⁹ Victims may include anyone injured or killed of any age in the traffic violation (e.g. as a passenger, traveling in an opposing vehicle, or as a pedestrian).

Dangerous driving under the *Criminal Code*

Definition

Dangerous driving—Section 249, subsection 1 of the *Criminal Code* defines the general offence of dangerous driving of a motor vehicle as follows:

Everyone commits an offence who operates

- a) a motor vehicle in a manner that is dangerous to the public, having regard to all the circumstances, including the nature, condition and use of the place at which the motor vehicle is being operated and the amount of traffic that at the time is or might reasonably be expected to be at that place;

Penalties

Dangerous operation—Everyone who commits an offence under subsection (1) is guilty of an indictable offence and liable to imprisonment for a term not exceeding five years; or is guilty of an offence punishable on summary conviction.

Dangerous operation causing bodily harm—Everyone who commits an offence under subsection (1) and thereby causes bodily harm to any other person is guilty of an indictable offence and liable to imprisonment for a term not exceeding ten years.

Dangerous driving that causes bodily harm during a flight from police carries a maximum period of imprisonment of 14 years (section 249.1).

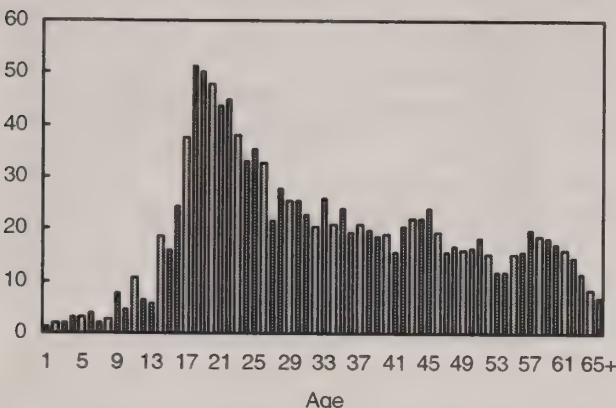
Dangerous operation causing death—Everyone who commits an offence under subsection (1) and thereby causes the death of any other person is guilty of an indictable offence and liable to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 14 years.

Dangerous driving that causes death while fleeing from police carries a maximum of life imprisonment (section 249.1).

Figure 7

Rate of victims of traffic injuries and fatalities, by age, 2002

Rate per 100,000 population



Note: Data are not nationally representative. Based on data from 94 police departments (excluding partial year respondents and OPP rural) representing 56% of the national volume of crime in 2002. The population for respondents having partial jurisdiction over certain CSDs has been adjusted in this table.

Source: Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, CCJS, Statistics Canada. Populations for police forces are derived based on estimates provided by the Demography Division of Statistics Canada. These populations are based on the 1996 Census geography boundaries.

The Traffic Injury and Research Foundation (TIRF) uses a variety of indicators to examine the problem of alcohol-related accidents, some of which extend beyond impaired driving.¹⁰ The indicators include:

- the number and percent of people who were killed in crashes that involved alcohol
- the number and percent of fatally injured drivers who had been drinking
- the number and percent of fatally injured pedestrians who had been drinking
- the number and percent of drivers in serious injury crashes that involved alcohol

Data from TIRF indicate that between 1995 and 2000, the estimated number of deaths in accidents that involved a drinking driver dropped from 1,296 to 864. Figure 8 indicates that the proportion of fatally injured drivers with blood alcohol content (BAC) over the legal limit (greater than 80 mg of alcohol per 100 ml of blood) declined from about one-third (33%) to one-quarter (25%) between 1987 and 2000. Furthermore, TIRF figures indicate that the proportion of drivers in serious injury crashes that involved alcohol dropped slightly from 21% in 1995 to 19% in 2000.

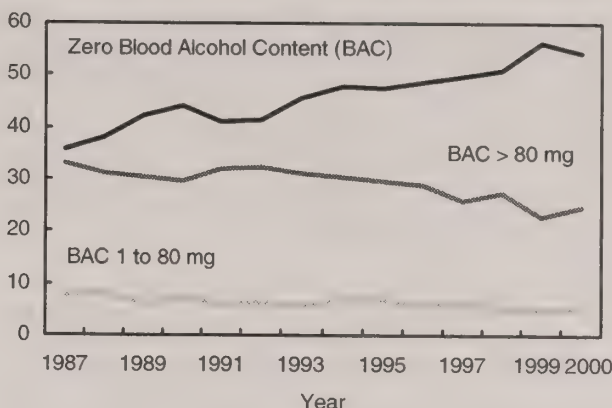
The courts and traffic offences

Important questions surround the way in which persons accused of impaired driving and other traffic offences are sanctioned, how much of a burden these offences and

Figure 8

Alcohol use among driver fatalities, Canada, 1987 to 2000

% of fatally injured drivers



Source: Traffic Injury Research Foundation, 2002.

offenders impose on the court system, and how many offenders are re-appearing in court for these violations.

The Adult Criminal Court Survey (ACCS) collects information on traffic cases handled by the courts. At the time of this report, adult criminal courts in all provinces and territories (except Manitoba, Northwest Territories and Nunavut) reported court data to the survey. These nine provinces and one territory represent approximately 90% of the national adult criminal court caseload.¹¹

High conviction rates for impaired driving and other traffic offences

Of the more than 452,000 cases heard in the courts reporting to the ACCS in 2001/02, 12% (52,662) were for impaired driving offences. This compares to 11% for common assault, 9% for theft, 4% for fraud and 3% for break and enter.¹²

Conviction rates for traffic violations, in comparison with other *Criminal Code* infractions, are relatively high. Just under three-quarters (73%) of cases involving impaired driving resulted in a conviction and seven in ten cases (69%) of other traffic

¹⁰ For more detailed information on the data and the methodology employed, see Traffic Injury Research Foundation of Canada (2002) "The Alcohol-Crash Problem in Canada: 2000", TP 11759 E, Transport Canada.

¹¹ For a more detailed description, refer to the Methodology section of this Juristat.

¹² There are three levels of assault in the *Criminal Code*: (Assault Level I, s. 266), (Assault Level II, s. 267), (Assault Level III, s. 268). Common assault (Assault Level I, s. 266) is the least serious of the three types of assault in the *Criminal Code*. A common assault has been committed when an individual intentionally applies force or threatens to apply force to another person, without that person's consent. Major assault is an offence category that includes the higher levels of assault in the *Criminal Code*: assault with a weapon (Assault Level II, s. 267), aggravated assault (Assault Level III, s. 268), and other assaults (e.g., assaulting a police officer, and unlawfully causing bodily harm).

violations resulted in a guilty decision. This compares to a conviction rate of 60% for all *Criminal Code* offences, 50% for violent crimes and 62% for property crimes (Robinson, 2003).

Fines are most common for impaired driving, prison for other traffic violations

Fines are the most common form of sanction handed down in cases of impaired driving. In 2001/02, less than eight in ten (77%) cases of impaired driving resulted in fines being imposed as the most serious sentence, followed prison (14%) and probation (7%). In comparison, custodial sentences were ordered in 36% of cases of violent crime and in 39% of cases involving property crimes. Prison sentences were most commonly used for other traffic violations (46%), followed by fines (37%) and probation (10%).

The vast majority (74%) of fines for impaired driving offences were for amounts between \$500 and \$1000. The average dollar amount for a fine was \$785, compared to \$648 for other *Criminal Code* traffic offences in 2001/02.

In 2001/02 the mean length of probation orders was just over one year (383 days). Where a prison sentence was ordered, the majority (57%) were sanctioned to one month or less. Nearly four in ten cases resulted in prison sentences between one and six months and 4% resulted in sentences of more than six months. About 1% were sentenced to federal institutions – a prison sentence that is for 2 years or more.¹³ The average length of a prison sentence for cases of impaired driving was under three months or 73 days.

Use of imprisonment and sentence length for impaired driving offences varies considerably across the country

As previously noted, in 2001/02 a prison sentence was ordered in 14% of impaired driving convictions in adult criminal courts¹⁴; however, this figure varies considerably across the country. For example, in Prince Edward Island, 91% of guilty cases of impaired driving resulted in a prison sentence as compared to only 4% in Nova Scotia. Sentence length also varies across the country. For instance, although in PEI, 91% of convicted cases resulted in a prison sentence, the average length of their prison term was 17 days. This compares to an average sentence length of 182 days in Nova Scotia (Figure 9).

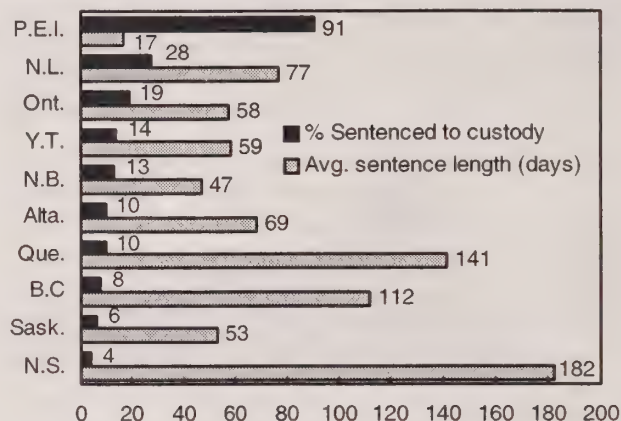
Trends in Court Outcomes for *Criminal Code* Traffic Cases

Fewer impaired driving cases received a period of incarceration

Based on data from jurisdictions consistently reporting to the ACCS since 1994/95, the use of incarceration as the most serious sentence in cases of impaired driving has declined slightly from 14% in 1994/95 to 11% in 2001/02.¹⁵ A number of factors can help explain the small decrease in use of prison, such as stiffer fines, decreasing severity of offences, and the implementation of conditional sentences¹⁶ (which represented the most serious sentence in approximately 1% of cases). However, it should be noted that conditional sentences for repeat offenders are not available since second offenders of

Figure 9

Percent of convicted cases of impaired driving sentenced to prison and average sentence length, by province, 2001-02



Note: Adult Criminal Court Survey data were not reported by Manitoba, Northwest Territories, and Nunavut.

Source: Adult Criminal Court Survey, CCJS, Statistics Canada.

impaired driving are subject to a minimum of 14 days imprisonment and subsequent offenders are subject to a minimum of 90 days imprisonment (Table 8). For impaired driving cases sentenced to a term of incarceration, the average length has ranged from 55 to 72 days between 1994/95 and 2001/02.

During this same time, the fines imposed for impaired driving offences have steadily increased from a mean of \$542 seven years ago to \$787 in 2001/02. Probation orders have also become longer. The average length of probation orders for impaired driving offences in 2001/02 was 21% longer than in 1994/95. The average probation order was set at 384 days, compared to 364 days two years ago and 317 days in 1994/95. The use of prison sentences for other traffic violations has dropped over the last 3 years.

¹³ The ACCS is not able to provide information on aggregate sentences and as a result, the proportion sentenced to federal institutions would be understated.

¹⁴ Convictions include guilty pleas and convictions after a trial.

¹⁵ 1994/95 marks the first year that the ACCS had 80% coverage. Prior to this, coverage was 35%. Although New Brunswick and British Columbia began reporting to the ACCS in 2001/02, these jurisdictions have been excluded for the purposes of trend analysis.

¹⁶ The Criminal Code provisions concerning conditional sentence of imprisonment (sections 742.1 to 742.7) were enacted in September 1996. Section 742.1 describes the imposition of a conditional sentence: "Where a person is convicted of an offence, except an offence that is punishable by a minimum term of imprisonment, and the court (a) imposes a sentence of imprisonment of less than two years, and (b) is satisfied that serving the sentence in the community would not endanger the safety of the community and would be consistent with the fundamental purpose and principles of sentencing set out in section 718 to 718.2, the court may, for the purposes of supervising the offender's behaviour in the community, order that the offender serve the sentence in the community, subject to the offender's complying with the conditions of a conditional sentence order made under section 742.3".

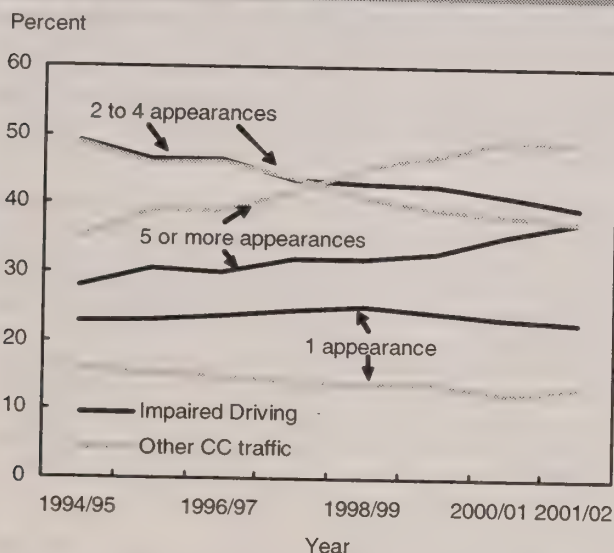
Length of court cases for *Criminal Code* traffic violations are increasing

The median¹⁷ elapsed time from first court appearance to case completion for all *Criminal Code* traffic violations increased slightly from 99 days in 2000/01 to 104 in 2001/02. This increase followed six years of stability and was primarily fueled by a rise in the elapsed time for impaired driving cases. The length of elapsed time for impaired driving cases increased from 92 days in 2000/01 to 99 days in 2001/02 (Table 9). The proportion of such cases requiring five or more appearances for a completion has steadily increased from 28% in 1994/95 to 38% in 2001/02 (Figure 10).

However, while cases involving other *Criminal Code* traffic violations continue to take longer to process (122 days in 2001/02, compared to 99 in 1994/95), they have decreased from the previous year.

Figure 10

Proportion of traffic violation court cases by number of appearances, 1994/1995 to 2001/02



Note: The figure includes only those jurisdictions that have consistently reported to the Adult Criminal Court Survey since 1994/95. New Brunswick, Manitoba, British Columbia, Northwest Territories and Nunavut are not included.

Source: Adult Criminal Court Survey, CCJS, Statistics Canada.

Over one in three young impaired drivers are recidivists

According to a pilot study of convicted young adults between 18 and 25 years of age, 36% of young impaired drivers in 1999/00 had one or more previous convictions, either in adult or youth court (Thomas et al. 2002). This compares to a recidivism rate of 61% among offenders convicted of crimes against the person and 63% among offenders convicted of crimes against property. To be considered a recidivist, the offender would have had at least one conviction in 1999/00 and at least one other conviction in an adult court since 1994/95 or youth court since 1991/92 within the same province or territory.¹⁸

Conclusion

After a small increase in 2001, the rate of impaired driving offences resumed its downward trend, which had been occurring over the past two decades. The 4% decrease places the rate in 2002 just below the rate reported in 2000.

In attempting to explain decreases in impaired driving incidents, parallels can be drawn with overall police-reported crime. Although the declines did not start in the same year, the overall crime rate has been generally decreasing since the early 1990s. Some of the factors that have been cited in attempting to explain overall crime rates can also help explain the drop in impaired driving, including reporting practices by the police, the impact of new initiatives such as changes in legislation, policies or enforcement practices; and, social and demographic changes.

Methodology and Data Sources

Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Survey - The Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, in co-operation with the policing community, collects police-reported crime statistics through the Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Survey. The UCR survey produces a continuous historical record of crime and traffic statistics reported by every police agency in Canada since 1962. UCR data reflect reported crime that has been substantiated through police investigation. Information collected by the survey includes the number of criminal incidents, the clearance status of those incidents and persons-charged information. The UCR survey is considered to be a summary or aggregate type census, with data available for nearly 100 separate criminal offences.

Incident-based UCR2 Survey - In 1988, the UCR survey was redeveloped to expand the information collected. This new survey, called the Incident Based UCR2 survey, is a micro data survey that allows detailed examinations of accused and victim characteristics, as well as characteristics of the incident itself. Information in this Juristat on specific ages of accused persons and time of incidents is based on the results of this survey. In 2002, there were 123 police agencies in 9 provinces reporting to the UCR2. A subset of the UCR2 database, the UCR2 Research database, was used for the current Juristat. Data from this non-representative sample accounted for 56% of the national volume of crime. The UCR2 Research database includes 94 police agencies in 9 provinces. The incidents contained in the 2002 Research database were distributed as follows: 39% from Ontario, 30% from Quebec, 12% from Alberta, 5% from British Columbia, 5% from Manitoba, 5% from Saskatchewan, 2% from Nova Scotia, 1% from New Brunswick, and 1% from Newfoundland & Labrador.

Adult Criminal Court Survey - The purpose of the Adult Criminal Court Survey (ACCS) is to provide a national database of statistical information on the processing of cases through the adult criminal court system. The survey consists of a census of *Criminal Code* and other federal statute charges dealt with

¹⁷ The median represents the mid-point of a group of values when all the values are sorted by size.

¹⁸ For more information about these limitations, refer to Methodology section.

in provincial/territorial adult criminal courts. Some limitations on coverage of the survey should be noted. In 2001/02, Manitoba and two territories (Northwest Territories and Nunavut) are not included in the survey. Also, data from Quebec's 140 municipal courts (which account for approximately 20% of federal statute charges in that province) are not yet collected. In addition, in 2001/02, Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick, Alberta, British Columbia, and the Yukon reported Superior Court data to the ACCS. The primary unit of analysis is the case, which is defined as one or more charges against an individual and disposed of in court on the same day.

Pilot Analysis of Recidivism among Convicted Youth and Young Adults

Data on repeat offenders is based on a pilot study of convicted persons drawn from the ACCS as well as the Youth Courts Survey (YCS). The study examines the conviction profiles of persons, 18 to 25 years of age, who were found guilty of at least one charge in adult criminal court in the fiscal year 1999/00. Recidivists were defined as those individuals with at least one other conviction in an adult or youth court in the same jurisdiction during the nine years covered by the study.

Complete conviction histories were available for 18,19, and 20 year olds in the study, but because comprehensive YCS data are not available prior to 1991/92, complete youth conviction histories for 21-25 year olds were not obtainable. For example, 25 year old offenders (17 years of age in 1991/92) would have had only one year in the youth system, 24 year old offenders would have had two years in the youth system, etc. Consequently, the total number of prior youth convictions for these offenders may be understated. Complete adult conviction histories were not available for 24 and 25 year olds in the study. For example, 25 year old offenders convicted in 1999/00, would have been 20 years of age in 1994/95, and 24 year old offenders in 1999/00 would have been 19 years of age in 1994/95. This reduces the possibility of an age of onset of 18 or 19 years for 25 year olds and an age of onset of 18 years for 24 year olds. Consequently, the proportion of recidivists with an age of onset of 18 or 19 years is slightly understated.

Police Administration Survey – This survey collects data on police personnel and expenditures from each municipal, provincial and federal (RCMP) police services in Canada. Information in this Juristat is based on the number of police officers. Police officers include the actual number of sworn police officers as of June 15th of the calendar year.

Canadian Community Health Survey (CCHS) – The primary objective of the CCHS is to provide timely cross-sectional estimates of health determinants, health status and health system utilization at a sub-provincial level (health region or combination of health regions). The CCHS collects information from individuals aged 12 or older who are living in private dwellings. People living on Indian reserves or Crown lands, residents of institutions, full-time members of the Canadian Armed Forces, and residents of certain remote regions are excluded. The CCHS covers approximately 98% of the Canadian population aged 12 or older.

Canadian Vehicle Survey (CVS) – The CVS is a Statistics Canada voluntary vehicle-based survey that provides annual estimates of road vehicle activity (vehicle-kilometres and passenger-kilometres) of vehicles registered in Canada. A quarterly sample of vehicles is drawn from vehicle registration lists provided by the provincial and territorial governments. Survey collection began on February 1, 1999. Only eight provincial / territorial vehicle registration lists were received in time to be included in the sample at that time, but over the remainder of 1999, the other lists were received. Starting October 1, 1999, vehicles from all provinces and territories were included in the survey. The CVS provides annual and quarterly estimates of road activity for vehicles registered in Canada. The estimates are provided by type of vehicle and other variables, such as driver and vehicle characteristics, time of day and season.

General Social Survey on Time Use (1998) – The General Social Survey has two principal objectives: first to gather data on social trends in order to monitor changes in Canadian Society over time, and second, to provide information on specific social issues of current or emerging interest. The core content for the 1998 GSS was time use. This was the third GSS with time use as the core content. Cycle 2 in 1986 and Cycle 7 in 1992 also focussed on time use. The target population included all people aged 15 and over, except full-time residents of institutions and residents of the Yukon, Nunavut and the Northwest Territories. Data was collected each month from February 1998 to January 1999. Over this period, a total of 10,749 people were successfully interviewed.

Traffic Injury Research Foundation (TIRF) – Two national databases are used by TIRF – the *Fatality Database* and the *Serious Injury Database*. The *Fatality Database* was initially developed in 1973 to provide an objective source of data on persons fatally injured in motor vehicle crashes occurring on and off public highways in Canada. From 1973 to 1987, data were available for seven provinces and since then the database has had full coverage. Two sources of data are used: (1) police reports on fatal motor vehicle collisions and (2) coroners and medical examiners reports. The *Serious Injury Database* was initially constructed in the mid-1990s to examine the incidence of alcohol in crashes that involve a serious injury (i.e. a crash that resulted in a person being admitted to hospital). Since 1995, information on serious alcohol related crashes have been assembled from all jurisdictions in Canada. The database contains information from police reports on persons seriously injured in crashes and on all drivers involved.

TIRF also conducts an annual survey on road safety issues, entitled the Road Safety Monitor. In 2002, 4,670 households across Canada were contacted in which a person was asked to participate; 2,722 (58%) refused; 120 (2.6%) terminated early; 579 (12%) were not qualified; 35 (<1%) were qualified but the quota was full; and 1,214 (26%) completed the interview. The data were weighted to ensure the results were representative of the national population. TIRF considers the results to be accurate within 2.8%, 19 times out of 20.

National Survey of Front-Line Police Officers – In 1997, in conjunction with Transport Canada, the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police (CACCP) surveyed 1,401 police officers in

Canada. The purpose of the survey was to identify current problems in enforcing impaired driving laws, determine the cause of the problems, and find possible solutions. The sample consisted of 48% of police officers serving communities of more than 100,000. Sixty percent of the respondents worked in a municipal police service, 17% in a provincial force, and 26% in the RCMP. Fourteen percent were full-time traffic officers, and 44% were Approved Instrument technicians (not necessarily full-time). The questionnaire consisted of multiple choice questions. The results presented in the analysis section of the report have a 5% margin of error.

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Table 1

Impaired driving incidents, persons charged, and percent cleared, by province, 2002

| Province | | Actual incidents | Persons charged | Percent cleared ¹ |
|---------------------------|---------------|------------------|-----------------|------------------------------|
| Newfoundland and Labrador | Number | 923 | 799 | 90.5 |
| | Rate | 212 | 183 | |
| Prince Edward Island | Number | 555 | 392 | 77.3 |
| | Rate | 498 | 351 | |
| Nova Scotia | Number | 2,458 | 1,925 | 80.9 |
| | Rate | 320 | 251 | |
| New Brunswick | Number | 2,123 | 1,915 | 93.9 |
| | Rate | 345 | 311 | |
| Quebec | Number | 19,646 | 16,762 | 90.9 |
| | Rate | 324 | 276 | |
| Ontario | Number | 20,586 | 19,445 | 99.2 |
| | Rate | 214 | 202 | |
| Manitoba | Number | 3,242 | 2,732 | 85.6 |
| | Rate | 361 | 304 | |
| Saskatchewan | Number | 6,151 | 4,855 | 82.2 |
| | Rate | 783 | 618 | |
| Alberta | Number | 13,035 | 10,186 | 84.5 |
| | Rate | 534 | 417 | |
| British Columbia | Number | 11,197 | 7,125 | 88.6 |
| | Rate | 332 | 211 | |
| Canada | Number | 80,789 | 66,682 | 90.3 |
| | Rate | 321 | 265 | |

Rates are based on 100,000 population aged 16 and over.

¹ Percent cleared includes incidents that were "cleared by charge" and "cleared otherwise".

Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, CCJS, Statistics Canada.

Table 2

Impaired driving rates¹, incidents and persons charged, Canada 1977 to 2002

| Year | Incidents | | | Persons Charged | | |
|-------------------|-----------|------|----------------------------|-----------------|------|----------------------------|
| | Number | Rate | % change rate ² | Number | Rate | % change rate ² |
| 1977 | 155,031 | 892 | ... | 149,004 | 857 | ... |
| 1978 | 155,887 | 879 | -1.4 | 149,738 | 845 | -1.5 |
| 1979 | 164,379 | 909 | 3.4 | 155,260 | 859 | 1.7 |
| 1980 | 169,216 | 916 | 0.7 | 157,492 | 852 | -0.7 |
| 1981 | 175,382 | 930 | 1.6 | 162,048 | 859 | 0.8 |
| 1982 | 167,312 | 872 | -6.3 | 143,424 | 747 | -13.0 |
| 1983 | 166,438 | 855 | -1.9 | 148,040 | 761 | 1.8 |
| 1984 | 162,807 | 826 | -3.4 | 142,100 | 721 | -5.2 |
| 1985 | 153,310 | 769 | -7.0 | 131,726 | 660 | -8.4 |
| 1986 | 150,571 | 745 | -3.1 | 128,797 | 637 | -3.5 |
| 1987 | 148,320 | 722 | -3.1 | 128,030 | 623 | -2.2 |
| 1988 | 144,029 | 691 | -4.3 | 121,178 | 581 | -6.7 |
| 1989 | 144,383 | 679 | -1.7 | 118,722 | 558 | -3.9 |
| 1990 | 139,078 | 644 | -5.1 | 112,161 | 520 | -6.9 |
| 1991 | 140,727 | 644 | -0.1 | 111,917 | 512 | -1.5 |
| 1992 | 132,419 | 598 | -7.0 | 105,805 | 478 | -6.6 |
| 1993 | 117,574 | 525 | -12.3 | 92,531 | 413 | -13.6 |
| 1994 | 107,768 | 475 | -9.5 | 88,582 | 391 | -5.5 |
| 1995 | 102,285 | 445 | -6.3 | 84,085 | 366 | -6.3 |
| 1996 | 96,280 | 414 | -7.1 | 79,347 | 341 | -6.8 |
| 1997 | 90,145 | 382 | -7.7 | 72,307 | 306 | -10.1 |
| 1998 | 87,660 | 367 | -3.9 | 72,579 | 304 | -0.8 |
| 1999 | 85,997 | 356 | -3.1 | 73,143 | 302 | -0.5 |
| 2000 ^r | 79,225 | 323 | -9.1 | 69,126 | 282 | -6.7 |
| 2001 ^r | 82,718 | 333 | 2.9 | 68,986 | 278 | -1.6 |
| 2002 | 80,789 | 321 | -3.7 | 66,682 | 265 | -4.7 |

... not applicable

^r Revised. Revisions have been made to the number of "actual" impaired driving incidents for the RCMP in 2000 and 2001. These revisions resulted in a 6% reduction in actual incidents at the Canada level for 2000 and 9% for 2001. These changes did not affect the national impaired driving trend. The number of persons "charged" with impaired driving offences did not require revision.

¹ Rates are calculated on the basis of 100,000 population 16 years and older. The population estimates come from the Annual Demographic Statistics 2002 report, produced by Statistics Canada, Demography Division. Populations as of July 1st: revised intercensal estimates for 1977 to 1990, final intercensal estimates for 1991 to 1995, final postcensal estimates for 1996 to 1999, updated postcensal estimates for 2000 and 2001, and preliminary postcensal estimates for 2002.

² In comparison to the previous year's rate: Percent change based on unrounded rates.

Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, CCJS, Statistics Canada.

Table 3

Number of offences related to impaired driving, Canada 1986 to 2002

| Year | Impaired operation of motor vehicle | | | | Impaired operation of other vehicles | | | | Fail or refuse to provide blood or breath sample | | | Total impaired driving |
|-------------------|-------------------------------------|--|---------------------|---------------|--------------------------------------|--|---------------------|---------------|--|--------|-------|------------------------|
| | Total | Operating vehicle while impaired or over 80 mg | Causing bodily harm | Causing death | Total | Operating vehicle while impaired or over 80 mg | Causing bodily harm | Causing death | Total | Breath | Blood | |
| 1986 | 135,342 | 133,726 | 1,430 | 186 | 558 | 397 | 151 | 10 | 14,671 | 14,292 | 379 | 150,571 |
| 1987 | 133,506 | 131,872 | 1,452 | 182 | 502 | 402 | 93 | 7 | 14,312 | 13,867 | 445 | 148,320 |
| 1988 | 129,917 | 128,355 | 1,374 | 188 | 479 | 338 | 128 | 13 | 13,633 | 13,113 | 520 | 144,029 |
| 1989 | 130,315 | 128,744 | 1,385 | 186 | 374 | 267 | 85 | 22 | 13,694 | 13,187 | 507 | 144,383 |
| 1990 | 125,859 | 124,306 | 1,387 | 166 | 464 | 328 | 121 | 15 | 12,755 | 12,246 | 509 | 139,078 |
| 1991 | 128,374 | 126,903 | 1,300 | 171 | 448 | 361 | 80 | 7 | 11,905 | 11,484 | 421 | 140,727 |
| 1992 | 121,428 | 119,884 | 1,383 | 161 | 325 | 240 | 64 | 21 | 10,666 | 10,284 | 382 | 132,419 |
| 1993 | 108,522 | 107,194 | 1,160 | 168 | 317 | 221 | 82 | 14 | 8,735 | 8,432 | 303 | 117,574 |
| 1994 | 99,651 | 98,363 | 1,155 | 133 | 274 | 228 | 30 | 16 | 7,843 | 7,510 | 333 | 107,768 |
| 1995 | 95,113 | 93,660 | 1,277 | 176 | 265 | 193 | 36 | 36 | 6,907 | 6,657 | 250 | 102,285 |
| 1996 | 89,883 | 88,444 | 1,266 | 173 | 214 | 162 | 30 | 22 | 6,183 | 5,989 | 194 | 96,280 |
| 1997 | 84,396 | 83,080 | 1,131 | 185 | 207 | 152 | 43 | 12 | 5,542 | 5,378 | 164 | 90,145 |
| 1998 | 81,969 | 80,786 | 1,045 | 138 | 229 | 203 | 19 | 7 | 5,462 | 5,302 | 160 | 87,660 |
| 1999 | 80,221 | 78,971 | 1,088 | 162 | 314 | 268 | 39 | 7 | 5,462 | 5,305 | 157 | 85,997 |
| 2000 ^r | 73,715 | 72,488 | 1,069 | 158 | 673 | 594 | 74 | 5 | 4,837 | 4,707 | 130 | 79,225 |
| 2001 ^r | 78,065 | 76,965 | 990 | 110 | 431 | 380 | 41 | 10 | 4,222 | 4,085 | 137 | 82,718 |
| 2002 | 76,323 | 75,240 | 973 | 110 | 505 | 451 | 41 | 13 | 3,961 | 3,832 | 129 | 80,789 |

^r revised

Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, CCJS, Statistics Canada.

Table 4

Number and rate¹ of persons charged with impaired driving, province/territory, 1992 to 2002

| Province/Territory | | 1992 | 1993 | 1994 | 1995 | 1996 | 1997 | 1998 | 1999 | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | % Change ² 2001-2002 | % Change ² 1992-2002 |
|---------------------------|---------------|----------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Newfoundland and Labrador | Number | 2,326 | 1,737 | 1,754 | 1,333 | 1,191 | 962 | 947 | 956 | 1,019 | 988 | 799 | | |
| | Rate | 523 | 388 | 393 | 300 | 270 | 219 | 217 | 219 | 234 | 227 | 183 | -19.2 | -65.0 |
| Prince Edward Island | Number | 585 | 611 | 509 | 554 | 542 | 489 | 397 | 414 | 467 | 424 | 392 | | |
| | Rate | 587 | 605 | 497 | 535 | 517 | 462 | 373 | 384 | 429 | 385 | 351 | -8.8 | -40.2 |
| Nova Scotia | Number | 4,251 | 3,495 | 3,279 | 2,816 | 2,444 | 2,244 | 2,284 | 2,404 | 1,927 | 2,049 | 1,925 | | |
| | Rate | 590 | 482 | 450 | 385 | 332 | 302 | 306 | 319 | 254 | 269 | 251 | -6.7 | -57.5 |
| New Brunswick | Number | 3,933 | 3,356 | 3,165 | 2,721 | 2,638 | 2,487 | 2,414 | 2,584 | 2,387 | 2,166 | 1,915 | | |
| | Rate | 673 | 571 | 536 | 458 | 442 | 414 | 401 | 426 | 391 | 353 | 311 | -12.0 | -53.8 |
| Quebec | Number | 22,811 | 20,710 | 20,734 | 21,324 | 19,518 | 17,637 | 18,283 | 18,548 | 15,885 | 16,717 | 16,762 | | |
| | Rate | 407 | 366 | 364 | 371 | 337 | 302 | 311 | 313 | 266 | 278 | 276 | -0.6 | -32.1 |
| Ontario | Number | 31,295 | 26,181 | 26,240 | 25,995 | 24,688 | 20,355 | 20,575 | 21,609 | 22,074 | 19,993 | 19,445 | | |
| | Rate | 377 | 313 | 309 | 303 | 284 | 230 | 230 | 237 | 238 | 211 | 202 | -4.5 | -46.5 |
| Manitoba | Number | 4,444 | 3,637 | 3,552 | 3,454 | 3,082 | 3,384 | 3,417 | 3,332 | 2,957 | 2,948 | 2,732 | | |
| | Rate | 520 | 424 | 412 | 398 | 354 | 387 | 389 | 377 | 332 | 330 | 304 | -7.7 | -41.6 |
| Saskatchewan | Number | 6,929 | 5,806 | 5,523 | 5,675 | 5,552 | 5,682 | 5,629 | 5,549 | 5,274 | 5,444 | 4,855 | | |
| | Rate | 924 | 770 | 729 | 743 | 720 | 732 | 721 | 707 | 671 | 693 | 618 | -10.8 | -33.0 |
| Alberta | Number | 15,358 | 14,003 | 12,921 | 10,660 | 10,335 | 10,377 | 9,988 | 10,047 | 9,970 | 10,523 | 10,186 | | |
| | Rate | 777 | 697 | 633 | 514 | 489 | 479 | 448 | 440 | 427 | 441 | 417 | -5.4 | -46.3 |
| British Columbia | Number | 12,922 | 12,167 | 10,087 | 8,916 | 8,767 | 8,021 | 8,020 | 7,185 | 6,672 | 7,278 | 7,125 | | |
| | Rate | 473 | 433 | 347 | 298 | 285 | 255 | 251 | 222 | 204 | 219 | 211 | -3.5 | -55.3 |
| Yukon | Number | 481 | 469 | 495 | 326 | 253 | 290 | 276 | 250 | 243 | 150 | 180 | | |
| | Rate | 2,146 | 2,059 | 2,216 | 1,416 | 1,056 | 1,195 | 1,155 | 1,055 | 1,030 | 638 | 764 | 19.9 | -64.4 |
| Northwest Territories | Number | 470 | 359 | 323 | 311 | 337 | 379 | 349 | 203 | 195 | 252 | 311 | | |
| | Rate | 1,143 | 856 | 749 | 705 | 751 | 841 | 777 | 698 | 668 | 850 | 1,038 | 22.1 | -9.1 |
| Nunavut ³ | Number | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 62 | 56 | 54 | 55 | | |
| | Rate | | | | | | | | 382 | 336 | 315 | 314 | -0.6 | ... |
| CANADA | Number | 105,805 | 92,531 | 88,582 | 84,085 | 79,347 | 72,307 | 72,579 | 73,143 | 69,126 | 68,986 | 66,682 | | |
| | Rate | 478 | 413 | 391 | 366 | 341 | 306 | 304 | 302 | 282 | 278 | 265 | -4.7 | -44.7 |

... not applicable

¹ Rates are calculated on the basis of 100,000 population 16 years and older. The population estimates come from the Annual Demographic Statistics 2002 report, produced by Statistics Canada, Demography Division. Populations as of July 1st: revised intercensal estimates for 1977 to 1990, final intercensal estimates for 1991 to 1995, final postcensal estimates for 1996 to 1999, updated postcensal estimates for 2000 and 2001, and preliminary postcensal estimates for 2002.

² Percent change based on unrounded rates.

³ In 1999, Nunavut, which comprises the eastern part of the Northwest Territories, officially became a Canadian territory. Data for 1999 onward for the Northwest Territories cannot be compared to data prior to 1999.

Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, CCJS, Statistics Canada.

Table 5

Rate¹ of persons charged with impaired driving, Census Metropolitan Areas², 1998 to 2002

| CMA | 1998 | 1999 | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | % Change 2001-2002 ³ | % Change 1998-2002 ³ |
|---------------------------------|------|------|------|------|------|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 500,000 population | | | | | | | |
| Calgary | 256 | 252 | 249 | 265 | 272 | 2.9 | 6.4 |
| Edmonton | 313 | 322 | 305 | 276 | 244 | -11.7 | -22.0 |
| Quebec | 308 | 279 | 244 | 231 | 223 | -3.6 | -27.8 |
| Montreal | 187 | 213 | 190 | 194 | 182 | -6.1 | -2.7 |
| Winnipeg | 244 | 246 | 206 | 183 | 167 | -8.7 | -31.6 |
| Ottawa ⁴ | 166 | 192 | 168 | 176 | 150 | -14.5 | -9.1 |
| Toronto | 129 | 149 | 154 | 157 | 149 | -5.1 | 14.9 |
| Vancouver ⁵ | 144 | 121 | 118 | 128 | 135 | 5.3 | -6.6 |
| Hamilton | 169 | 171 | 173 | 135 | 130 | -3.8 | -23.2 |
| Under 500,000 population | | | | | | | |
| Regina | 500 | 502 | 555 | 479 | 383 | -20.1 | -23.5 |
| Trois-Rivières | 402 | 431 | 355 | 350 | 355 | 1.5 | -11.7 |
| Saskatoon | 456 | 439 | 334 | 350 | 345 | -1.2 | -24.3 |
| Thunder Bay | 401 | 299 | 315 | 286 | 293 | 2.5 | -26.8 |
| St. Catharines-Niagara | 234 | 261 | 267 | 310 | 253 | -18.3 | 8.4 |
| Sherbrooke | 267 | 252 | 273 | 226 | 250 | 10.7 | -6.3 |
| Saguenay | 315 | 317 | 280 | 207 | 226 | 9.2 | -28.1 |
| Gatineau ⁶ | 337 | 259 | 239 | 244 | 220 | -9.8 | -34.7 |
| Kitchener | 284 | 260 | 285 | 229 | 214 | -6.7 | -24.8 |
| Saint John | 294 | 335 | 390 | 286 | 212 | -25.7 | -27.7 |
| London | 247 | 258 | 275 | 218 | 212 | -2.8 | -14.1 |
| Sudbury | 214 | 188 | 152 | 194 | 199 | 2.9 | -7.0 |
| Halifax | 237 | 255 | 186 | 208 | 195 | -6.4 | -18.0 |
| St. John's | 243 | 214 | 238 | 237 | 185 | -21.9 | -23.9 |
| Windsor | 286 | 268 | 243 | 241 | 168 | -30.5 | -41.3 |
| Victoria | 253 | 229 | 187 | 168 | 166 | -1.3 | -34.6 |

¹ Rates are calculated per 100,000 population 16 years and older. Populations as of July 1st: updated postcensal estimates for 2000 and 2001 and preliminary postcensal estimates for 2002.

² A CMA typically comprises more than one police force. Police forces may also enforce traffic offences outside the boundaries of the CMAs. Please note that the Oshawa Census Metropolitan Area (CMA) is excluded from this table due to the incongruity between the police agency jurisdictional boundaries and the CMA boundaries.

³ Percent change based on un-rounded rates.

⁴ Ottawa refers to the Ontario part of the Ottawa-Gatineau CMA.

⁵ Data for 2001 include estimates for 3 months for Vancouver Police.

⁶ Gatineau refers to the Quebec part of the Ottawa-Gatineau CMA.

Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, CCJS, Statistics Canada.

Table 6

Number and rate¹ of dangerous driving, Canada and provinces/territories, 2002

| Province/Territory | Population 16 and older | Dangerous driving | |
|---------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------|---------------------------|
| | | Number | Rate (16 years and older) |
| Newfoundland and Labrador | 436,335 | 146 | 33 |
| Prince Edward Island | 111,543 | 31 | 28 |
| Nova Scotia | 767,849 | 158 | 21 |
| New Brunswick | 615,871 | 301 | 49 |
| Québec | 6,070,631 | 930 | 15 |
| Ontario | 9,626,289 | 3,017 | 31 |
| Manitoba | 898,420 | 303 | 34 |
| Saskatchewan | 785,126 | 693 | 88 |
| Alberta | 2,442,323 | 1,739 | 71 |
| British Columbia | 3,369,924 | 1,260 | 37 |
| Yukon | 23,550 | 18 | 76 |
| Northwest Territories | 29,950 | 41 | 137 |
| Nunavut | 17,541 | 9 | 51 |
| CANADA | 25,195,352 | 8,646 | 34 |

¹ Rates are calculated on the basis of 100,000 population 16 years and older. The population estimates come from the Annual Demographic Statistics, 2002 report, produced by Statistics Canada, Demography Division. Populations as of July 1st: revised intercensal estimates for 1977 to 1990, final intercensal estimates for 1991 to 1995, final postcensal estimates for 1996 to 1999, updated postcensal estimates for 2000 to 2001, and preliminary postcensal estimates for 2002.

Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, CCJS, Statistics Canada.

Table 7

Rate¹ of police-reported incidents involving fatalities and injuries, 1986 to 2002

| Year | Total | Causing death | | | Causing bodily harm | | |
|-------------------|-------|---------------------|------------------|-------------------|---------------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| | | Total causing death | Impaired driving | Dangerous driving | Total causing bodily harm | Impaired driving | Dangerous driving |
| 1986 | 13.2 | 2.4 | 1.0 | 1.4 | 10.8 | 7.8 | 3.0 |
| 1987 | 13.0 | 2.2 | 0.9 | 1.3 | 10.8 | 7.5 | 3.3 |
| 1988 | 12.2 | 2.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 10.2 | 7.2 | 3.0 |
| 1989 | 11.9 | 2.1 | 1.0 | 1.1 | 9.8 | 6.9 | 2.9 |
| 1990 | 11.9 | 2.0 | 0.8 | 1.1 | 9.9 | 7.0 | 2.9 |
| 1991 | 11.3 | 1.7 | 0.8 | 0.9 | 9.6 | 6.3 | 3.3 |
| 1992 | 11.5 | 1.8 | 0.8 | 1.0 | 9.8 | 6.5 | 3.2 |
| 1993 | 10.0 | 1.7 | 0.8 | 0.8 | 8.4 | 5.5 | 2.8 |
| 1994 | 9.4 | 1.5 | 0.7 | 0.8 | 8.0 | 5.2 | 2.7 |
| 1995 | 10.1 | 1.7 | 0.9 | 0.8 | 8.3 | 5.7 | 2.6 |
| 1996 | 9.7 | 1.5 | 0.8 | 0.7 | 8.2 | 5.6 | 2.6 |
| 1997 | 9.1 | 1.6 | 0.8 | 0.8 | 7.5 | 5.0 | 2.5 |
| 1998 | 8.0 | 1.3 | 0.6 | 0.6 | 6.8 | 4.5 | 2.3 |
| 1999 | 8.3 | 1.4 | 0.7 | 0.7 | 6.9 | 4.7 | 2.2 |
| 2000 ^r | 8.2 | 1.3 | 0.7 | 0.7 | 6.9 | 4.7 | 2.3 |
| 2001 ^r | 7.6 | 1.0 | 0.5 | 0.5 | 6.6 | 4.1 | 2.4 |
| 2002 | 7.5 | 1.0 | 0.5 | 0.6 | 6.4 | 4.0 | 2.4 |

^r revised

¹ Rates are calculated on the basis of 100,000 population 16 years and older. The population estimates come from the Annual Demographic Statistics, 2002 report, produced by Statistics Canada, Demography Division. Populations as of July 1st: revised intercensal estimates for 1977 to 1990, final intercensal estimates for 1992 to 1995, final postcensal estimates for 1996 to 1999, updated postcensal estimates for 2000 and 2001, and preliminary postcensal estimates for 2002.

Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, CCJS, Statistics Canada.

Table 8

**Mean sentence length and fine amount for impaired driving and other
Criminal Code traffic offences, 1994/95 to 2001/02**

| Year | Prison (Days) | | Probation (Days) | | Fine (\$) | |
|---------|------------------|-----------------------------|------------------|-----------------------------|------------------|-----------------------------|
| | Impaired driving | Other Criminal Code traffic | Impaired driving | Other Criminal Code traffic | Impaired driving | Other Criminal Code traffic |
| 1994/95 | 55 | 74 | 317 | 389 | 542 | 574 |
| 1995/96 | 56 | 75 | 320 | 383 | 539 | 589 |
| 1996/97 | 58 | 77 | 329 | 369 | 545 | 582 |
| 1997/98 | 61 | 80 | 329 | 368 | 549 | 603 |
| 1998/99 | 70 | 91 | 352 | 384 | 560 | 602 |
| 1999/00 | 65 | 96 | 364 | 378 | 650 | 621 |
| 2000/01 | 67 | 91 | 374 | 380 | 767 | 644 |
| 2001/02 | 72 | 87 | 384 | 381 | 787 | 664 |

Note: Includes jurisdictions that have consistently reported to the ACCS since 1994/95. New Brunswick, Manitoba, British Columbia, Northwest Territories and Nunavut are not included. Revised figures for 1994/95 to 2000/01. Revisions were made to the ACCS counting procedures and offence classifications. The revisions reduced the number of overall cases in 1997/98 (2.5%), 1998/99 (1.8%), 1999/00 (1.9%) and 2000/01 (2.0%).

Excludes cases where length of prison was not known, and cases where the length was specified as indeterminate.

Source: Adult Criminal Court Survey, CCJS, Statistics Canada.

Table 9

Case elapsed time (median days) in adult criminal court by number of appearances, 1994/95 to 2001/02

| Year and Offence | Total | 1 appearance | 2 appearances | 3 appearances | 4 appearances | 5 or more appearances |
|-----------------------------|-------|--------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|-----------------------|
| 1994/95 | | | | | | |
| Impaired Driving | 95 | 1 | 36 | 100 | 145 | 238 |
| Other Criminal Code Traffic | 99 | 1 | 33 | 79 | 123 | 197 |
| 1995/96 | | | | | | |
| Impaired Driving | 98 | 1 | 36 | 99 | 146 | 245 |
| Other Criminal Code Traffic | 103 | 1 | 29 | 79 | 121 | 210 |
| 1996/97 | | | | | | |
| Impaired Driving | 99 | 1 | 34 | 100 | 151 | 256 |
| Other Criminal Code Traffic | 108 | 1 | 29 | 84 | 120 | 218 |
| 1997/98 | | | | | | |
| Impaired Driving | 97 | 1 | 29 | 98 | 155 | 283 |
| Other Criminal Code Traffic | 120 | 1 | 29 | 84 | 125 | 228 |
| 1998/99 | | | | | | |
| Impaired Driving | 92 | 1 | 29 | 99 | 153 | 273 |
| Other Criminal Code Traffic | 120 | 1 | 29 | 71 | 121 | 225 |
| 1999/00 | | | | | | |
| Impaired Driving | 93 | 1 | 29 | 92 | 149 | 264 |
| Other Criminal Code Traffic | 124 | 1 | 29 | 76 | 120 | 228 |
| 2000/01 | | | | | | |
| Impaired Driving | 92 | 1 | 28 | 79 | 151 | 276 |
| Other Criminal Code Traffic | 127 | 1 | 29 | 69 | 111 | 232 |
| 2001/02 | | | | | | |
| Impaired Driving | 99 | 1 | 28 | 78 | 141 | 292 |
| Other Criminal Code Traffic | 122 | 1 | 29 | 73 | 107 | 234 |

Note: Includes only those jurisdictions that have consistently reported to the Adult Criminal Court Survey since 1994/95. New Brunswick, Manitoba, British Columbia, Northwest Territories and Nunavut are not included.

Revised figures for 1994/95 to 2000/01. Revisions were made to the ACCS counting procedures and offence classifications. The revisions reduced the number of overall cases in 1997/98 (2.5%), 1998/99 (1.8%), 1999/00 (1.9%) and 2000/01 (2.0%).

Source: Adult Criminal Court Survey, CCJS, Statistics Canada.

Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics

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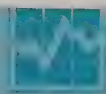
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Adult criminal court statistics, 2002/03

by *Adriana Ciccone McCutcheon*¹

Highlights

- In 2002/03, adult criminal courts in ten provinces and territories (not including Manitoba, Northwest Territories, and Nunavut) processed 467,500 cases involving approximately 1,042,500 charges.
- The mean elapsed time from first to last appearance for cases completed in adult criminal court was more than 6 months (194 days) in 2002/03.
- Some offences take longer to resolve than others, such as homicide (336 days), sexual assault (309 days), other sexual offences (318 days) and drug trafficking (263 days). The shortest mean elapsed times in 2002/03 occurred for the offence of unlawfully at large (103 days).
- The accused was found guilty in 60% of cases heard in 2002/03, and 3% were acquitted. One-third (34%) of cases were either stayed, withdrawn, dismissed or discharged, and 3% were otherwise terminated by the court (e.g., decisions of not criminally responsible, waived out of province/territory, Charter arguments or accused was found unfit to stand trial).
- A term of probation was the most frequently imposed sanction (46% of guilty cases). A term of imprisonment was imposed in 35% of cases, and a fine was imposed in 33% of cases.
- The proportion of cases sentenced to prison varies across the country. In 2002/03, the highest incarceration rate was in Prince Edward Island, where 59% of guilty cases resulted in a term of imprisonment, while the lowest incarceration rate was in Nova Scotia, where prison was imposed in 23% of cases.
- The number of cases processed in 2002/03 represents a 6% increase over the previous year for eight jurisdictions. These jurisdictions are Newfoundland and Labrador, Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, Quebec, Ontario, Saskatchewan, Alberta, and Yukon. The 2002/03 fiscal year marks the second consecutive increase in the number of cases heard following a long downward trend in the number of cases processed by adult criminal courts. Overall, there has been a 5% increase since 1998/99.
- The average number of charges per case in 2002/03 was 2.2 for the eight jurisdictions. The proportion of cases with three or more charges has increased from 17% of all cases in 1994/95 to 23% in 2002/03.

1. Analyst, Courts Program.



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Introduction

This *Juristat* summarises trends from adult provincial/territorial criminal courts in the nine provinces and one territory (Box 1) which provided data to the Adult Criminal Court Survey (ACCS) for the 2002/03 reference year. In this *Juristat*, information is presented on the characteristics of cases and accused persons, the number of appearances, conviction rates, sentencing trends and related issues.

Box 1 About the survey

The analysis in this report is based on data from the Adult Criminal Court Survey. Data on disposed federal statute charges are collected by the Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics (CCJS) in collaboration with provincial and territorial government departments responsible for adult criminal courts.

At the time of this report, adult criminal courts in nine provinces and one territory reported to the ACCS. Reporting jurisdictions include: Newfoundland and Labrador, Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Quebec,² Ontario, Saskatchewan, Alberta, British Columbia and Yukon. In addition, in 2002/03 Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Alberta, British Columbia, and Yukon reported superior court data to the ACCS (less than 1% of total caseload). These ten jurisdictions represent approximately 90% of the national adult criminal court caseload. The information presented in this report covers only these ten participating jurisdictions. The remaining jurisdictions, Manitoba, Northwest Territories³ and Nunavut, will be supplying data to the survey within the next few years.

The primary unit of analysis is the case, which is defined as one or more charges against an individual and disposed of in court on the same day. The charge information used to define the case is determined by the "most serious offence", as described in the methodology section. The individuals involved are persons 18 years or older at the time of the offence, companies, as well as youths who have been transferred to adult criminal court.

Cases heard in adult criminal court

In 2002/03, adult criminal courts in ten provinces and territories processed about 467,500 cases involving about 1,042,500 charges. The large majority of cases (87%) had a *Criminal Code* charge as the most serious offence in the case.⁴ *Crimes Against the Person* accounted for 27%, and *Crimes Against Property* accounted for a further 23% of the total number of cases (Table 1). *Administration of Justice* offences constituted 17% of all cases, while *Criminal Code Traffic* comprised 14% of total cases. *Other Criminal Code* (which includes weapons offences and disturbing the peace offences, among others) represented 7% of all cases. The remaining 13% of cases dealt with *Other Federal Statutes*.^{5,6}

One-third of cases involve impaired driving, common assault or theft

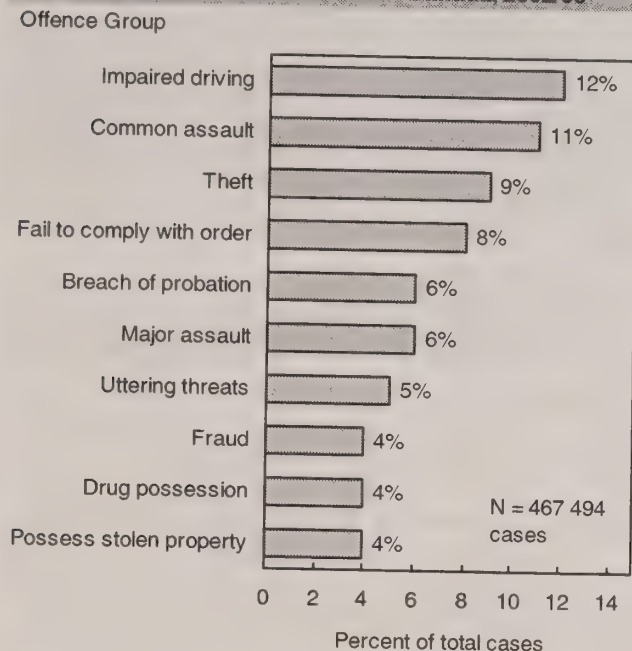
In 2002/03, the most frequently occurring offences were impaired driving (12%) and common assault (11%).⁷ Theft offences represented 9% of all cases, while two offences related to administration of justice, failure to comply with a court order (8%)

- Information from Quebec's 87 municipal courts (which account for approximately 26% of federal statute charges in that province) is not yet collected.
- The Northwest Territories last participated in the survey in 1999/00. In that year, data from the Northwest Territories accounted for 0.4% of the total caseload reported to the ACCS.
- For analytical purposes, when a case has more than one charge, it is necessary to decide which charge will be used to represent the case. If the case includes a finding of guilt, that charge will always be considered the most serious. The most serious offence in a case with multiple guilty findings is determined based on the type of offence and the sentences imposed. See the methodology section for more details.
- Other Federal Statutes* refers to offences against Canadian federal statutes, such as the Customs Act, the Employment Insurance Act, Firearms Act, the Income Tax Act, and the Controlled Drugs and Substances Act.
- Percentages may not add to 100 due to rounding.
- There are three levels of assault in the *Criminal Code*: Assault Level 1, s. 266, Assault Level II, s. 267, Assault Level III, s. 268. Common assault (Assault Level 1, s. 266) is the least serious of the three types of assault in the *Criminal Code*. A 'common' assault has been committed when an individual intentionally applies force or threatens to apply force to another person, without that person's consent. Major assault is an offence category that includes the higher levels of assault in the *Criminal Code*: assault with a weapon (Assault Level II, s. 267), aggravated assault (Assault Level III, s. 268), and other assaults (e.g. assaulting a police officer, and unlawfully causing bodily harm).

and breach of probation (6%), were the next most frequently occurring offences. Other frequently occurring offences were major assault (6%) and uttering threats (5%). Taken together, all forms of sexual assault and other sexual offences accounted for 2% of the caseload in adult criminal courts. Homicide and attempted murder together accounted for approximately 0.2% of total cases (Table 1).

Figure 1

Ten most frequent offences heard in adult criminal court 10 provinces and territories in Canada, 2002/03



Notes: Adult Criminal Court Survey data are not reported by Manitoba, Northwest Territories and Nunavut. For more information on grouped offences see methodology section. In Quebec, most drug offences are recorded under residual federal statutes, resulting in an undercount of drug possession and drug trafficking cases and an overcount of residual federal statute cases.

Source: Adult Criminal Court Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

Demographic characteristics of persons appearing in court

Eight in ten adult criminal court cases involve males

Of all cases at the adult criminal court level, 83% involved a male accused, while 15% of cases involved a female accused. In 2002/03, the sex of the accused was not recorded in less than 2% of the cases. The remaining cases (less than 1%) involved a company as the accused.

Although males accounted for the majority of cases, the distribution varied by type of offence. For *Crimes Against the Person* and *Criminal Code Traffic*, 85% of cases involved males, while males were involved in 77% of *Crimes Against Property*. The few offences for which females accounted for a significant percentage of cases included: prostitution (43%), fraud (29%), and theft including shoplifting (28%).

Younger adults accounted for almost one-third of court cases

Younger adults were over represented in court when compared to the age distribution of the adult population.⁸ In 2002/03, 18 to 24 year olds comprised 12% of the adult population,⁹ but accounted for 31% of all cases in adult criminal court.¹⁰ Persons less than 45 years of age accounted for 84% of the total cases heard in adult criminal court and 52% of the adult population. In contrast, persons 45 to 54 years of age represented 19% of the population and 11% of adult criminal court cases and persons 55 or older represented 29% of the adult population, but accounted for 5% of cases (Table 2).

Case processing

An accused's right to be brought to trial in a timely manner is a fundamental principle within the Canadian criminal justice system. Preparations for each case commence in the court registry with the scheduling of the first court appearance, and continue with further co-ordination of judicial resources throughout the criminal court process. There are a variety of factors, many of which are not under the direct control of the courts, which affect both case management and processing. Such factors include: the volume of cases being processed by a court; the complexity of cases; the types of offences being prosecuted; issues related to the co-ordination and availability of various participants within the criminal justice process; lawyers' decisions on the most appropriate course of action for their clients; and accused failing to appear in court.

Multiple charge cases,¹¹ which may be complex and more serious, accounted for half (49%) of all cases in 2002/03. One-quarter (26%) of all cases involved two charges and 23% had three or more charges.

Mean elapsed time from first to last court appearance exceeds 6 months

The amount of time it takes to complete the processing of a case has always been an important issue, in particular since the 1990 Supreme Court decision in *R. v. Askov*.¹² Overall, the mean elapsed time from first to last appearance was 194 days in 2002/03. Mean elapsed times varied considerably between jurisdictions. Mean elapsed times were longest in Quebec (260 days) and Nova Scotia (215 days). In Prince Edward Island, the jurisdiction with the shortest mean processing time, cases were completed in an average of 32 days, with half of cases (54%) being disposed in one day (Table 3) (See Box 2).

8. Age represents the offender's age in years on the day the offence was alleged to have been committed.

9. Population estimates as of July 2002.

10. Excludes 8,176 (1.7%) cases where age of the accused was unknown and 628 (0.1%) cases against companies.

11. The classification of a case as a single-charge or multiple-charge is based on the total number of charges heard in the case, not just those charges resulting in a finding of guilt.

12. 59 C.C.C. (3d) 449. In this decision, the Supreme Court affirmed the right of an accused to be brought to trial without excessive delay. Further clarification of the issue was provided by *R. v. Morin* (1992) 71 C.C.C. (3d) 193 (S.C.C.). The judgement in *Morin* suggested that an eight to ten month delay was tolerable between charges being laid and the subsequent trial in provincial court.

Box 2 Mean, median and mode

Mean, median and mode are measures of central tendency. The mean is the average value of all the data in the set. The median represents the midpoint of a sorted data set, where exactly half the dataset are above and half are below the midpoint. The mode is the most frequently observed value in the data set. There may be no mode if no value appears more than any other. There may also be two or more modes (e.g., bimodal, trimodal or multimodal).¹³

The median may be influenced by data sets that are not normally distributed. Sentencing data are not normally distributed and they tend to be multimodal (i.e., there are a number of frequently occurring sentencing values). For example, prison sentences are typically imposed for periods of weeks or months (e.g., 15 days, 30 days, 45 days, 180 days, etc.) and the movement of the median value from one cluster (i.e., one multimodal value) to another may indicate a large increase or decrease in sentencing trends when other measures of central tendency indicate a more subtle change. In addition, the trend line of median values may indicate stability when the change in the sentencing pattern is too small to cause the movement of the median value from one sentencing cluster (i.e., one multimodal value) to another. The mean is less affected by the clustering of observations in a data set. However, the mean can be affected by the presence of extreme values, and for this reason both the mean and the median values have been presented in the tables for this Juristat.

Fourteen percent of cases took more than 1 year to resolve

The elapsed time was greater than 8 months to 12 months for 12% of cases, and more than one year in 14% of cases.

Some offences take longer to resolve than others, such as homicide, sexual assault, other sexual offences and drug trafficking. Homicide had the longest mean elapsed time (336 days). Sexual assault and other sexual offences had a mean elapsed time of 309 and 318 days respectively in 2002/03, and drug trafficking had a mean elapsed time of 263 days. The shortest mean elapsed times in 2002/03 occurred for the offence of unlawfully at large (103 days).

Overview of case outcomes

A majority of cases had at least one conviction

The accused was found guilty in six out of every ten cases heard in adult criminal court in 2002/03 (Figure 2, see page 5).^{14,15} In one-third (34%) of the cases, the most serious offence was resolved by being stayed or withdrawn, 3% of the cases resulted in the acquittal of the accused, and 3% had an 'other' decision (see Box 3).

Conviction rates vary by offence group

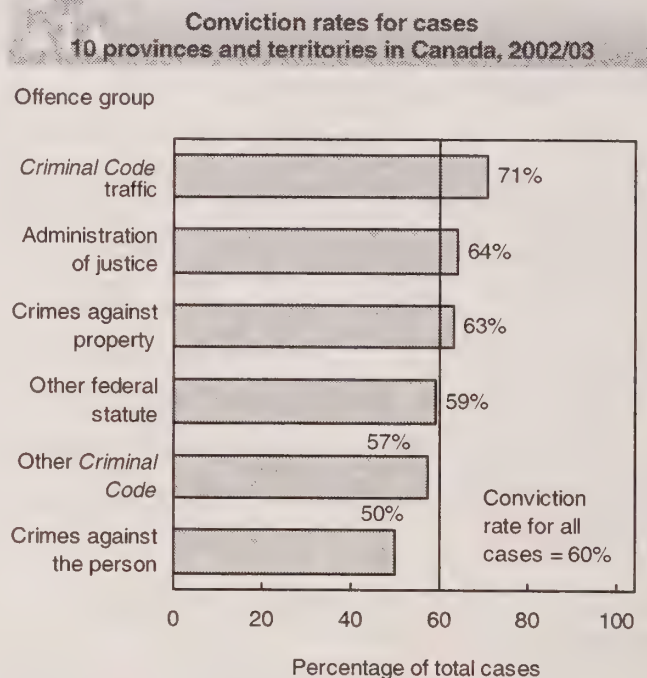
Criminal Code Traffic offences had the highest conviction rate¹⁶ (71%) in 2002/03, whereas *Crimes Against the Person* has the lowest conviction rate (50%) (Figure 3). Several factors impact on differing conviction rates for offence categories. For example, some crimes may be easier to prove than others, depending on the number and availability of witnesses and the complexity of evidence presented by the Crown. As well, the number of charges the police lay for each incident will influence the number of charges coming into court and may have an impact on the distribution of case decisions if some charges are stayed or withdrawn.

Box 3 Decisions in Adult Criminal Court

The decision categories in this report are as follows:

- **Found Guilty** includes guilty of the charged offence, of an included offence, of an attempt of the charged offence, or of an attempt of an included offence. This category also includes cases where an individual has been found guilty but was given an absolute or conditional discharge.
- **Stay or Withdrawn** includes stay of proceedings, withdrawn, dismissed and discharged at preliminary inquiry. These decisions all refer to the court stopping criminal proceedings against the accused.
- **Acquittal** means that the accused has been found not guilty of the charges presented before the court.
- **Other decisions** includes final decisions of found not criminally responsible, waived in province/territory, and waived out of province/territory. This category also includes any order where a conviction was not recorded, the court's acceptance of a special plea, cases which raise Charter arguments and cases where the accused was found unfit to stand trial. In jurisdictions not providing superior court data (i.e., Newfoundland and Labrador, Quebec, Ontario, Saskatchewan), the "other decision" category also includes charges having a committal for trial in superior court as the decision on the final appearance in provincial court.

Figure 3



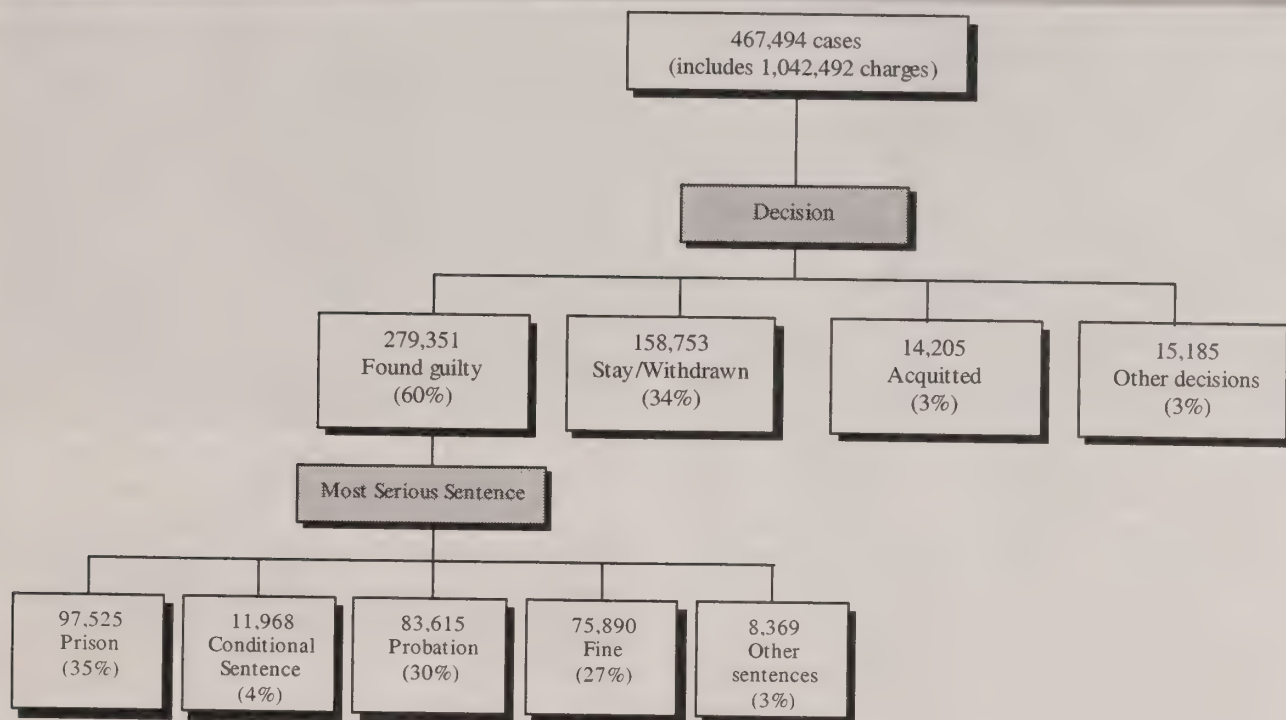
Notes: Convictions include absolute and conditional discharges. Please see table one for the list of offences included in each offence category. Adult Criminal Court Survey data are not reported by Manitoba, Northwest Territories, and Nunavut.

Source: Adult Criminal Court Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

13. See Statistics Canada. 2003. "Measures of central tendency." About Statistics: Power from Data! www.statcan.ca (accessed August 1, 2003).
14. Includes absolute and conditional discharges. After a guilty decision is rendered, the court may discharge the accused absolutely or on conditions specified in a probation order (CCC s.730). Approximately 8% of cases with a guilty decision in 2002/03 had an absolute or conditional discharge.
15. See methodology section for more information on ACCS counting procedures and most serious offence rules.
16. The conviction rate is the proportion of cases with a finding of guilt.

Figure 2

**Adult court processing of federal statute cases in provincial and selected superior courts,
10 provinces and territories in Canada, 2002/03**



Notes: Found guilty decisions include absolute and conditional discharges.

Stay/Withdrawn includes cases stayed, withdrawn, dismissed and discharges at preliminary inquiry.

Other decisions include final decisions of found not criminally responsible, waived in province/territory, and waived out of province/territory. This category also includes decisions where a conviction was not recorded, the court accepted a special plea, cases which raised Charter arguments or cases where the accused was found unfit to stand trial.

Cases with an unknown sentence (<1% of convicted cases) have been excluded from the sentence counts in this figure.

Conditional sentencing data was not collected in Quebec for 2002/03, resulting in an undercount of conditional sentences.

Probation totals include mandatory probation for cases given a conditional discharge (approximately 5% of cases with a guilty finding) or a suspended sentence (approximately 14% of cases with a guilty finding).

Adult Criminal Court Survey data are not reported by Manitoba, Northwest Territories, and Nunavut.

Source: Adult Criminal Court Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

Conviction rates vary among offences in *Crimes Against the Person* offence group (Figure 4). Conviction rates range from 25% for attempted murder to 53% for common assault and 57% for robbery. In contrast to *Crimes Against the Person*, there was considerable uniformity in the conviction rates for *Crimes Against Property*, with the conviction rates ranging from 54% for possession of stolen property to 69% for break and enter. On average, 63% of *Crimes Against Property* resulted in a conviction (Figure 5).

New Brunswick, Quebec, and Newfoundland and Labrador have the highest conviction rates

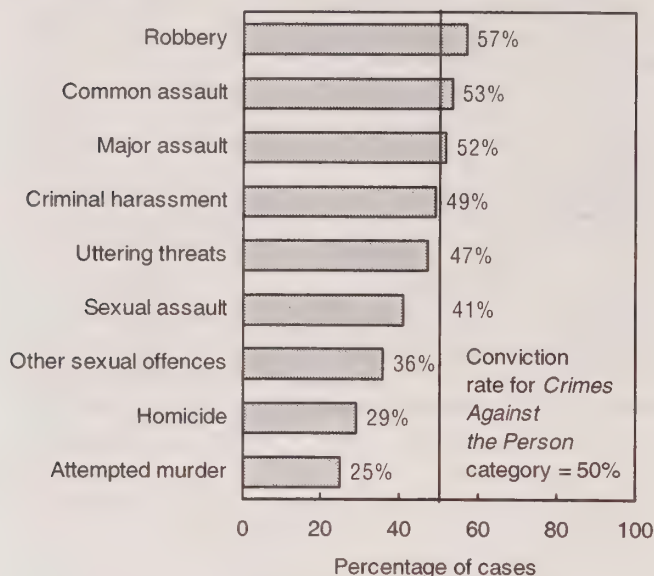
Overall conviction rates were highest in New Brunswick (74%), Quebec (74%), and Newfoundland and Labrador (69%) and lowest in Nova Scotia (52%), Ontario (54%), and British Columbia (55%) (Table 4).

There are several possible factors that influence variations in conviction rates. First, some jurisdictions use diversion and alternative measures to a greater extent, which affects the number and types of cases that proceed to court. Secondly, the use of stays and withdrawals varies across the country, and this will have an impact on the percentage of cases in which a conviction is recorded. For example, 43% of cases

Figure 4

Conviction rates for cases with a crime against the person as the most serious offence in the case
10 provinces and territories in Canada, 2002/03

Offence type



Notes: Convictions include absolute and conditional discharges. For more information on grouped offences see methodology section. Adult Criminal Court Survey data are not reported by Manitoba, Northwest Territories, and Nunavut.

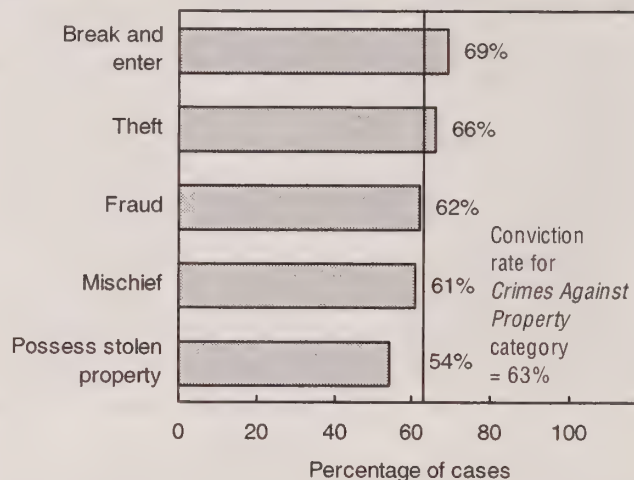
Source: Adult Criminal Court Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

were stayed or withdrawn in Ontario, whereas 10% were terminated this way in Quebec. Thirdly, the use of pre-charge screening by the Crown, which occurs in Quebec, New Brunswick and British Columbia, may also affect the percentage of convictions through increased vetting of charges. Fourthly, the number of convictions recorded is slightly lower in jurisdictions not providing superior court data. In these jurisdictions (i.e., Newfoundland and Labrador, Quebec, Ontario, and Saskatchewan) the final provincial court decision is committed for trial for those cases that proceed to superior court and do not return to provincial court (approximately 2% of caseload). Finally, the number of charges laid against an individual in relation to similar incidents may vary from one jurisdiction to another. For example, the same criminal incident may result in one charge (e.g., major assault) in one jurisdiction

Figure 5

Conviction rates for cases with a crime against property as the most serious offence in the case
10 provinces and territories in Canada, 2002/03

Offence type



Notes: Convictions include absolute and conditional discharges. Theft includes theft over \$5,000, theft under \$5,000 and other theft. Fraud includes fraud over \$5,000, fraud under \$5,000 and other fraud. Adult Criminal Court Survey data are not reported by Manitoba, Northwest Territories, and Nunavut.

Source: Adult Criminal Court Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

and two charges (e.g., major assault and attempted murder) in another jurisdiction. Charging practices may influence conviction rates as indicated by the higher conviction rate in cases with multiple charges. For instance in 2002/03 the conviction rate for multiple charge cases was 70% compared to 49% for single charge cases.

Sentencing patterns

Determining the sentence to be imposed is one of the most challenging decisions for a court. At sentencing, the court will seek to impose a sentence that reflects the principles of the sentencing process, as outlined by section 718 of the *Criminal Code* (See Box 4).

Box 4

Principal Sentencing Options in Canada¹⁷

The main types of sanctions¹⁸ that can be imposed in Canada include the following:

Imprisonment: This involves a term of custody served in a provincial/territorial or federal institution. Sentences of two years or more are served in a federal penitentiary, while terms of less than two years are served in provincial/territorial correctional facilities. Sentences of 90 days or less can be served intermittently, which usually refers to serving the sentence on weekends. There are a number of offences, such as impaired driving, homicide and offences committed using a firearm, having minimum sentencing provisions outlined in the *Criminal Code of Canada*, which affect the nature and length of sentences imposed.

Conditional sentence: The Sentencing Reform Bill C-41 was enacted in 1996 establishing a new community-based conditional sentencing option as an alternative to incarceration.¹⁹ The Supreme Court of Canada situated the conditional sentence between a prison term and a suspended sentence with probation. With a conditional sentence of imprisonment, the execution of the prison sentence is suspended. In terms of seriousness, it is less serious than prison but more serious than a term

of probation. Like probation, conditional sentences are served in the community under supervision and often include a number of conditions restricting the movement and activities of the offender.

Probation: An offender sentenced to a term of probation remains in the community, but is subject to a number of conditions for the duration of the probation order. Some conditions are compulsory and apply to all offenders on probation. These include keeping the peace and appearing before the court when required to do so. The optional conditions vary from case to case, and can include performing community service, abstaining from the consumption of alcohol and providing for the support of dependants. Violating the conditions of a probation order is a criminal offence subject to possible prosecution that could result in a maximum sentence of imprisonment of two years.

Fine: When a fine is imposed, the offender is ordered to pay a specific dollar amount to the court. Unless the offender has been convicted of an offence carrying a minimum term of imprisonment, or a maximum penalty of more than 5 years, an offender may be fined in lieu of other types of punishment.

Other types of sanctions: In addition to these principal sentencing options, the courts can choose a variety of other sentencing options, such as restitution, compensation, a conditional or absolute discharge or a suspended sentence. Multiple sanctions may be imposed, but there are specific rules that govern the types of sentencing options that can be ordered in combination.

Probation was the most common sentence in 2002/03

Probation was the most frequent sentence, imposed in nearly half (46%) of all cases with a conviction.²⁰ Prison was imposed in 35% of cases, and fines in 33% of all cases.²¹ Approximately one fifth of convicted cases (21%) received absolute discharge, conditional discharge or a suspended sentence, 5% were given a conditional sentence^{22,23} and 4% were ordered to pay restitution.

More than one third of convictions for *Crimes Against the Person* received prison

In 2002/03, 36% of convicted *Crimes Against the Person* cases were sentenced to prison (Table 5). One factor to be considered when examining the use of incarceration in this category is that common assault – the least serious form of assault (level 1) with a relatively low use of incarceration (25%) – represented a large proportion (45%) of convicted cases in the *Crimes Against the Person* category. When common assault is removed, the remainder of the *Crimes Against the Person* category has a higher use of incarceration (45%).

Majority of offenders convicted of break and enter were sentenced to prison

Offenders were sentenced to prison in 40% of the convicted *Crimes Against Property* cases. Persons committing these offences tend to have longer criminal histories, and after the seriousness of the crime, an offender's criminal history is one of the most important factors considered by the court when determining the sanction to be imposed.²⁴ Prison was frequently used as a sanction for convictions in several *Crimes Against Property* offences. For example, 58% of convicted break and enter cases, 50% of possession of stolen property cases, and more than a third (39%) of theft cases resulted in a prison sentence.

A majority of convictions (52%) for *Administration of Justice* offences were sentenced to prison. This category is dominated by offences where the accused did not comply with the orders of the court (e.g., breach of probation, and failure to comply with a court order).

Use of imprisonment varies considerably across the country

The proportion of cases sentenced to prison varies across the country. In 2002/03, the highest incarceration rate was in Prince Edward Island, where 59% of convicted cases resulted in a term of imprisonment, while the lowest incarceration rate was in Nova Scotia, where prison was imposed in 23% of cases (Figure 6).

17. See B. Bélanger. 2001. *Sentencing in Adult Criminal Courts, 1999/00*. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 85-002-XPE Vol.21 No.10. Ottawa: Statistics Canada.

18. For more information on sentencing options and the nature of the 1996 sentencing reforms see J. Roberts and D. Cole (eds). 1999. *Making Sense of Sentencing*. Toronto: University of Toronto Press.

19. For more information, see *R.v. Proulx*, 1999.

20. Probation is mandatory in cases where the accused is given a conditional discharge (approximately 5% of guilty cases in 2002/03) or a suspended sentence (approximately 14% of convictions).

21. Cases can have more than one sentence. Therefore, sanctions are not mutually exclusive and will not add to 100%.

22. In 2002/03, conditional sentencing data were not available for Quebec.

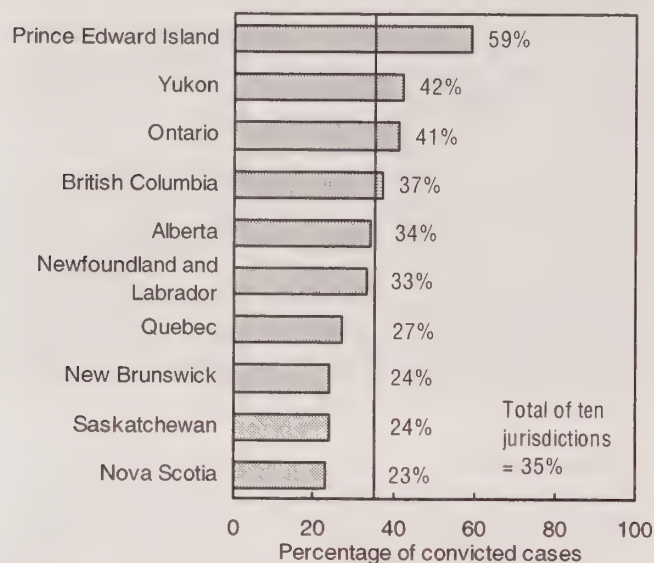
23. The Sentencing Reform Bill C-41 was enacted in 1996 establishing a new community-based conditional sentencing option as an alternative to incarceration. For more information see *R.v. Proulx*, 1999.

24. See M. Thomas, H. Hurley, and C. Grimes. 2002. *Pilot Analysis of Recidivism among Convicted Youth and Young Adults – 1999/00*. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 85-002 Vol.22 No.9. Ottawa: Statistics Canada.

Figure 6

**Percent of convicted cases sentenced to prison for the most serious offence in the case
10 provinces and territories in Canada, 2002/03**

Jurisdiction



Notes: Includes cases completed in superior courts in Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Alberta, British Columbia, and Yukon. Information from Quebec's 87 municipal courts (which account for approximately 26% of federal statute charges in that province) are not available. Adult Criminal Court Survey data are not reported by Manitoba, Northwest Territories, and Nunavut.

Source: Adult Criminal Court Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

This variation in the use of incarceration reflects the influence of several factors. First, the mix of offences being sentenced can vary from jurisdiction to jurisdiction. If a particular jurisdiction has a higher than average percentage of the more serious crimes, it may also have a higher than average overall percentage of cases being sent to prison.

Second, courts in different parts of the country may use incarceration in different ways. In Prince Edward Island, for example, offenders are frequently sent to prison for their first impaired driving conviction. Since this offence category accounts for 22% of convicted cases in the province, the overall proportion of cases sentenced to prison in Prince Edward Island will be higher than the national average. Of all impaired driving convictions in Prince Edward Island, 89% resulted in incarceration. This is by far the highest in Canada, followed by Newfoundland and Labrador at 25%. The lowest rate of incarceration occurred in Nova Scotia, where 5% of convicted impaired drivers were incarcerated.

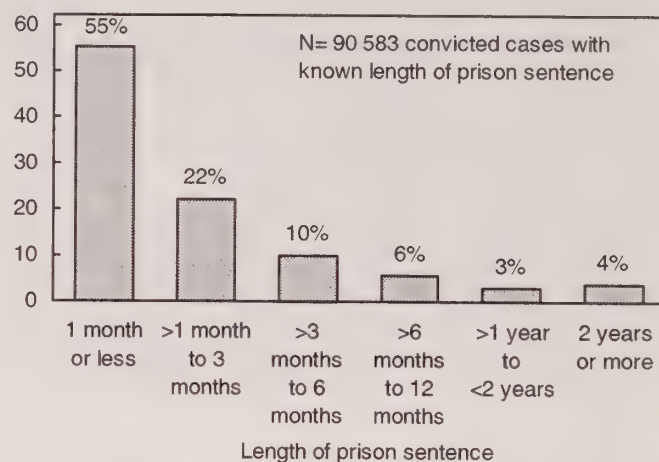
Most terms of imprisonment are relatively short

Over half (55%) of all custodial sentences imposed in 2002/03 were one month or less, while an additional one-third (32%) were for periods from greater than one month up to six months.^{25,26} Custodial sentences of greater than six months

Figure 7

**Convicted cases by length of prison sentence,
10 provinces and territories in Canada, 2002/03**

Percent



Notes: Due to rounding, percentages may not add to 100. Excludes 8% of cases where the length of prison sentence was unknown. Time in custody prior to sentencing is sometimes taken into consideration when imposing a sentence. The length of time in custody prior to sentencing and the extent to which it influences the sanction imposed are not available from the ACCS. Adult Criminal Court Survey data are not reported by Manitoba, Northwest Territories, and Nunavut.

Source: Adult Criminal Court Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

but less than two years were imposed in 9% of convicted cases with prison, and 4% were sentenced to custody for two years or more (Figure 7).²⁷

Use of probation²⁸

In 2002/03, *Crimes Against the Person* were most likely to result in a sentence of probation (Table 5). Three-quarters (76%) of convicted cases in this category were sentenced to a term of probation, compared to 56% of offenders convicted of a *Crime Against Property*. It should be noted that a substantial proportion of cases involving *Crimes Against the Person* also received a term of imprisonment along with a probation order. Of the 48,509 convicted *Crimes Against the Person* cases that received probation in 2002/03, 30% also received a prison sentence. This compares to 28% for offenders convicted of a property crime.

25. Excludes 6,942 (7.1%) cases with a prison sentence, but unknown prison length.

26. Time in custody prior to sentencing is sometimes taken into consideration when imposing a sentence. The length of time in custody prior to sentencing and the extent to which it influences the sanction imposed are not available from the ACCS.

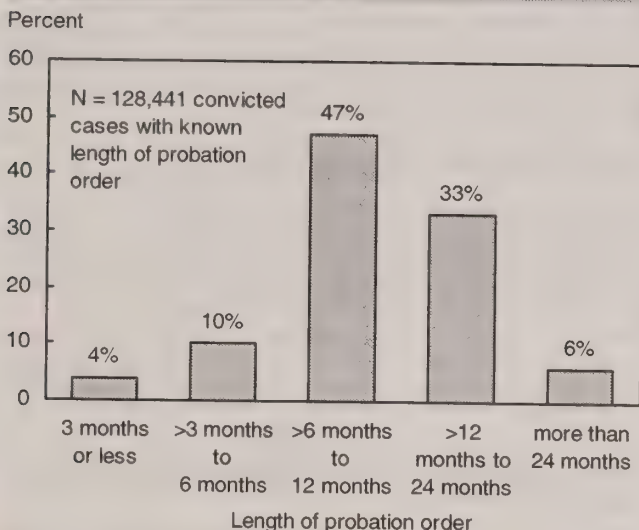
27. Percentages do not add to 100 due to rounding.

28. This includes cases given a conditional discharge or a suspended sentence. Probation is mandatory in cases where a conditional discharge (CCC s. 730 (1)) or a suspended sentence (CCC s. 731(1) (a)) are imposed.

In 2002/03, the most common probation term length was "greater than six months to one year" (47% of convicted cases with probation) (Figure 8).²⁹ One-third (33%) of cases were greater than 12 months to two years in length. Fourteen percent were for six months or less, and 6% of probation terms were for a period of more than two years. (The statutory limit on a term of probation is three years.)

Figure 8

**Convicted cases by length of probation for the most serious offence in the case,
10 provinces and territories in Canada, 2002/03**



Notes: Due to rounding, percentages may not add to 100. Probation totals include mandatory probation for cases given a conditional discharge (approximately 5% of convictions) or a suspended sentence (approximately 14% of convictions). Excludes cases where the length of probation sentence was unknown (<1.0% of cases). Adult Criminal Court Survey data are not reported by Manitoba, Northwest Territories, and Nunavut.

Source: Adult Criminal Court Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

29. The length of probation was unknown in less than 1% of cases where probation was ordered.
30. Superior court refers to Court of Queen's Bench in New Brunswick, and Alberta, and the Supreme Court in Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, British Columbia, and Yukon.
31. Superior court has absolute jurisdiction over the indictable offences listed in section 469 of the Criminal Code. These offences include murder, treason, and intimidating Parliament, among others. Provincial court has absolute jurisdiction over the offences listed in CCC s. 553, which includes failure to comply with probation order, driving while disqualified, theft (other than theft of cattle), etc. All other indictable offences are eligible for election to superior court by the accused.
32. It may also be possible for superior courts to hear summary offences when they have been transferred due to the election of an indictable offence in the same case.
33. Percentages may not add to 100 due to rounding.
34. The offence homicide includes murder (1st and 2nd degree), infanticide, and manslaughter.
35. Prince Edward Island superior court data do not include information on the number of appearances and elapsed time from first to last case appearance for cases completed in superior court. As a result Prince Edward Island data were removed from this portion of the analysis.
36. Probation is mandatory in cases where the accused is given a conditional discharge or a suspended sentence.
37. Cases can have more than one sentence. Therefore, sanctions are not mutually exclusive and will not add to 100%.

Box 5

Superior court statistics, selected provinces and territories, 2002/03

In 2002/03, data on superior courts³⁰ were collected in Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Alberta, British Columbia, and the Yukon. Superior courts hear indictable offences, and are the only courts with jurisdiction to try first and second degree murder charges, which account for 2% of superior court caseload. For charges other than the most serious indictable offences,³¹ the accused can elect the mode of trial.³² This text box summarizes case processing, case outcomes, and sentencing in superior courts, and compares these statistics with similar statistics for provincial courts.

Case Processing: In 2002/03, 2,895 cases (2% of total cases) were completed in superior court in the six reporting jurisdictions. The most common cases were *Crimes Against the Person* (45% of superior court cases), followed by *Other Federal Statute* (28%) and *Crimes Against Property* (14%). *Other Criminal Code* cases accounted for 6% of superior court cases, and a small proportion of cases involved *Criminal Code Traffic* (4%) and *Administration of Justice* (2%) matters.³³

Although superior court caseload has a higher proportion of *Crimes Against the Person* cases than provincial court (45% and 23% respectively), superior courts did hear cases in each offence category. (Table 6) Half of the homicide³⁴ cases (50%) for the six jurisdictions were completed in superior court in 2002/03. Almost one quarter of other sexual offences cases (23%) and 22% of attempted murder cases were completed in superior court.

In 2002/03, superior court cases took longer to process than provincial court cases. In five of the six jurisdictions reporting superior court data,³⁵ the mean elapsed time for cases completed in superior court (i.e. the average time from the first appearance in provincial court to the last appearance in superior court) was over thirteen months (407 days), compared to 167 days for cases completed in provincial court in these jurisdictions. For each offence type completed in superior court, the mean elapsed times were considerably longer in superior court than provincial court (Table 6). The procedures used to elect trial in superior court, scheduling a trial, and jury selection are some of the factors contributing to the longer case processing times. Although superior courts process relatively few cases, the inclusion of superior court data in the ACCS slightly increased overall case processing times for the five jurisdictions.

Case Outcomes: Cases completed in superior court in the six reporting jurisdictions had a conviction rate of 47%, much lower than for provincial court cases (60%) in the same jurisdictions in 2002/03. The accused was acquitted in 15% of the cases completed in superior court in 2002/03 and 3% of the cases completed in provincial court in these jurisdictions. The lower conviction rate and the higher acquittal rate may be in part a reflection of the nature of superior court cases, as superior courts hear a relatively larger proportion of cases involving serious offences than provincial court. Serious violent offences may sometimes be more difficult to prove in court as a result of a number of factors including the number and availability of witnesses, the number of charges in the case and the complexity of evidence presented by the Crown. Conviction rates for some offences (e.g., robbery, sexual assault, and major assault) are slightly lower in superior courts than in provincial courts.

Sentencing: The majority (49%) of cases convicted in superior court resulted in a prison sentence, and nearly one-third (32%) resulted in a conditional sentence in 2002/03. Probation was a sanction in 30% of convicted cases,³⁶ and 12% of cases resulted in a fine.³⁷ Compared to provincial court, prison is more frequently used in superior court for offences under *Crimes Against the Person*. For other types of offences (*Other Federal Statute*, *Crimes Against Property*), the frequency of prison sentences differs little between superior and provincial courts.

In 2002/03, 52% of cases with a prison sentence in superior court had a sentence of more than one year, and 42% had a term of two years or more; in provincial court, only 6% of prison sentences were for more than one year. For all offence groups, the mean and median length of prison sentence were considerably higher in superior court than provincial court (Table 7).

Use of fines

In 2002/03, one-third (33%) of convicted cases were given a fine (Table 5). The mean amount of fine was \$753. Convicted cases where a fine was most frequently imposed were impaired driving (86%), drug possession (55%), disturbing the peace (45%), other *Criminal Code* traffic (44%) and other federal statutes (67%) such as the *Income Tax Act*.

Five-year trends

This section highlights trends in Adult Criminal Court statistics from 1998/99 to 2002/03 for the eight jurisdictions that have participated in the Adult Criminal Court Survey for each of the past five years. The jurisdictions are Newfoundland and Labrador, Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, Quebec, Ontario, Saskatchewan, Alberta, and Yukon. These eight jurisdictions represent approximately 80% of the national adult criminal court caseload.

Recent increases in the number of cases heard in adult criminal court continues

The number of cases³⁸ processed in 2002/03 increased to 405,300 for the eight jurisdictions, up by 6% over the previous year (Table 8).³⁹ The 2002/03 fiscal year marks the second consecutive increase in the number of cases heard following a long downward trend in the number of cases processed by adult criminal courts. Overall, there has been a 5% increase since 1998/99. Four of the eight jurisdictions reported an increase since 2001/02 (i.e., Nova Scotia, Quebec, Ontario and Saskatchewan).

The increase in cases reflects the recent trends in crime rates reported in the *Crime Statistics in Canada, 2002* Juristat.⁴⁰ In the eight jurisdictions, actual criminal incidents for federal statute offences decreased in each year from 1998/99 to 2000/01 (-4% during that period) and increased in the last two years, 2% between 2000/01 and 2002/03.⁴¹

In addition, this increase is brought on by the replacement of, in certain municipalities in Québec, the municipal police forces by the Sûreté du Québec. In municipalities where the population is 50,000 or less, the municipal police services were replaced by the Sûreté du Québec. Under municipal police forces, many summary conviction charges were heard in municipal court and following the change to the Sûreté du Québec, a greater number of these charges were referred to provincial courts than municipal courts. The ACCS does not currently collect data from the 87 municipal courts in Quebec, even though these courts hear approximately 26% of charges under federal statutes in the province. This change in reporting resulted in a 14% increase in the number of cases reported to the ACCS for Quebec between 2001/02 and 2002/03.

The proportion of *Administration of Justice* cases has been increasing over the five-year period. In 1998/99, *Administration of Justice* cases accounted for 16% of all cases for the eight jurisdictions. By 2002/03, *Administration of Justice* represented 18% of all cases. The proportion of *Crimes Against the Person* cases has also increased since 1998/99, from 25% of cases to 27% in 2002/03.

The proportion of *Crimes Against Property* and *Criminal Code Traffic* cases, on the other hand, have each fallen slightly since 1998/99. *Crimes Against Property* and *Criminal Code Traffic* constituted 22% and 14% of cases, respectively, in 2002/03 (Table 8).

Conviction rates are stable

A guilty decision was recorded in 60% of cases heard in court in 2002/03 for the eight jurisdictions. The proportion of cases resulting in a conviction has varied by two percentage points over the past five years (62% in 1998/99).

The proportion of convicted cases sentenced to prison remains unchanged

The proportion of convicted cases where prison was used as a sanction remained unchanged between 1998/99 (35%) and 2002/03 (35%) for the eight jurisdictions.

Prison sentence lengths decreasing

The mean prison sentence length for *case sentenced to prison* decreased in each of the past five years, from 139 days in 1998/99 to 117 days in 2002/03. While the overall prison sentence length has been decreasing during this period, there have been small increases in the mean sentence length for some offences. For instance, between 1998/99 and 2002/03, the mean prison sentence for other sexual offences increased from 450 to 460 days and from 70 to 73 days for impaired driving (Table 9).

The use of probation has increased and the length of orders has decreased

The proportion of cases receiving probation as a sanction has increased since 1998/99 from 42% to 46% in 2002/03. Among all offence groups, the largest increase between 1998/99 and 2002/03 occurred for *Other Federal Statutes* where the rate of probation for guilty cases increased from 24% to 30%. Attempted murder offences showed the largest increase, with the proportion of convicted cases receiving probation increasing from 28% to 39%.⁴²

Since 1998/99, the length of probation orders has been decreasing. The mean length of all probation orders has declined in each of the last five years, from 479 days in 1998/99 to 473 days in 2002/03 (Table 10).

38. Revised figures for 1998/99 to 2000/01. Revisions were the result of changes to the ACCS counting procedures and offence classifications. See methodology section for more information on ACCS counting procedures.

39. Since 1998/99, collection of superior court data has commenced in four of the eight jurisdictions. However, superior court data is not responsible for the increase in cases. Cases completed in provincial court increased 5% between 1998/99 and 2002/03.

40. See M. Wallace. 2002. *Crime Statistics in Canada, 2002. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 85-002-XPE Vol.23 No.5*. Ottawa: Statistics Canada. See also "Comparisons with other sectors in the justice system" in the methodology section for an overview of the differences between Crime Statistics and Adult Criminal Court Statistics.

41. Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

42. The inclusion of superior court data for four of the eight jurisdictions in 2002/03 had no impact on the proportion sentenced to a term of probation or sentenced to pay a fine.

Imposition of fine sentences has been decreasing

Since 1998/99, the imposition of fine sentences has been decreasing. In 2002/03, 33% of convicted cases were given a fine, compared to 40% in 1998/99. During the same period, there has been a trend towards imposing higher fines. In 1998/99, 22% of all fines were for amounts over \$500, whereas by 2002/03, 45% of all fines were for amounts over \$500. The mean amount of fine,⁴³ which was \$577 in 1998/99, increased to \$750 in 2002/03 (Table 11).

Longer-term trends

This section highlights trends in Adult Criminal Court statistics from 1994/95 to 2002/03 for the eight jurisdictions that have participated in the Adult Criminal Court Survey for each of the past nine years.⁴⁴

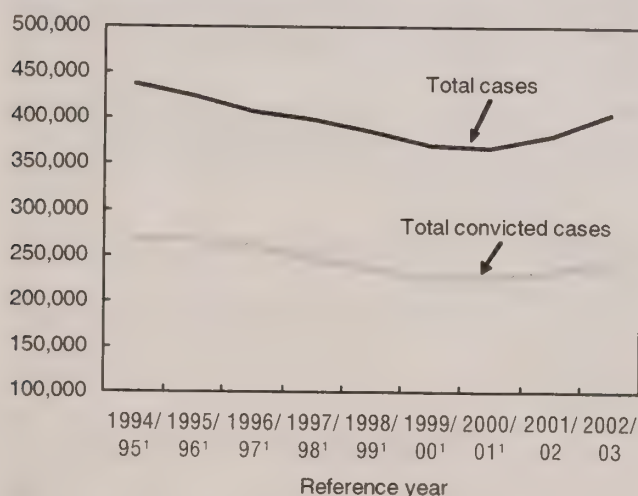
The number of cases heard in adult criminal court has increased in the last two years

The number of cases heard decreased 16% between 1994/95 and 2000/01 and increased 10% since then. Overall, the number of cases heard in 2002/03 represents a 7% decrease over the number of cases completed in 1994/95 (Figure 9).

Figure 9

Total number of cases and convictions heard in Adult Criminal court, Eight provinces and territories in Canada, 1994/95 to 2002/03

Number of cases and convictions



Notes: Superior court data was collected in Alberta from 1998/99, in Yukon from 1999/00, in Prince Edward Island from 2000/01, in New Brunswick and British Columbia in 2001/02, and in Nova Scotia in 2002/03. Cases completed in superior courts represent less than 1% of total cases in each of these jurisdictions. This figure does not include data from New Brunswick, Manitoba, British Columbia, Northwest Territories and Nunavut.

1. Revised figures for 1994/95 to 2000/01. Revisions were the result of changes to the ACCS offence classifications. See methodology section for more information on ACCS counting procedures.

Source: Adult Criminal Court Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

Cases are becoming more complex

The average number of charges per case has increased 10% rising from 2.0 in 1994/95 to 2.2 in 2002/03. Additionally, the proportion of multiple-charge cases increased from 44% of all cases to 49% over the nine-year period. Further, the proportion of cases with three or more charges has increased from 17% of all cases in 1994/95 to 23% in 2002/03.

Cases require more time and more appearances to process

Between 1994/95 to 2002/03, the overall mean case elapsed time from first to last appearance in court for the eight jurisdictions increased 45% from 136 to 197 days. The mean processing time for the least complex cases, those with a single charge, increased 53% from 121 to 185 days, while the processing time for more complex cases (i.e., multiple-charge cases) was 157 days in 1994/95 and 209 days in 2002/03.

The mean number of appearances per case has increased 39%, from 4.1 appearances in 1994/95 to 5.7 appearances in 2002/03. The proportion of cases with five or more appearances increased from 33% of all cases to 48% during this same period. This suggests that in 2002/03, the actual demand on court resources by these complex cases has increased, compared to 1994/95.

The proportion of convicted cases where prison was used as a sanction has increased slightly between 1994/95 (33%) and 2002/03 (35%) for the eight jurisdictions. Some variability in incarceration rates was evident at the offence level. For example, the incarceration rate for attempted murder and weapons offences increased slightly, as attempted murder went from an incarceration rate of 69% in 1994/95 to 72% in 2002/03 and the incarceration rate for weapons offences increased from 29% to 32%.^{45,46} Alternatively, the incarceration rate for sexual assault decreased 15 percentage points to 47% over the same period.

The mean prison sentence length has increased between 1994/95 and 2002/03. In 1994/95 the mean prison sentence length was 115 days. It rose to 139 days in 1998/99 and decreased to 117 days in 2002/03. There have been significant increases in the mean sentence length for some offences. For instance, between 1994/95 and 2002/03, the mean prison sentence for other sexual offences increased from 412 to 460 days and from 55 to 73 days for impaired driving.

43. Fine amounts are given in current dollars.

44. Data are available from the Adult Criminal Courts Survey from 1994/95 at approximately 80% of national adult criminal court caseload. This section represents the longest trend analysis possible for jurisdictions consistently reporting to the survey during this period (i.e., Newfoundland and Labrador, Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, Quebec, Ontario, Saskatchewan, Alberta, and Yukon).

45. The 2002/03 incarceration rates for the eight jurisdictions may vary from those in Table 5 because the incarceration rates in Table 5 include New Brunswick and British Columbia.

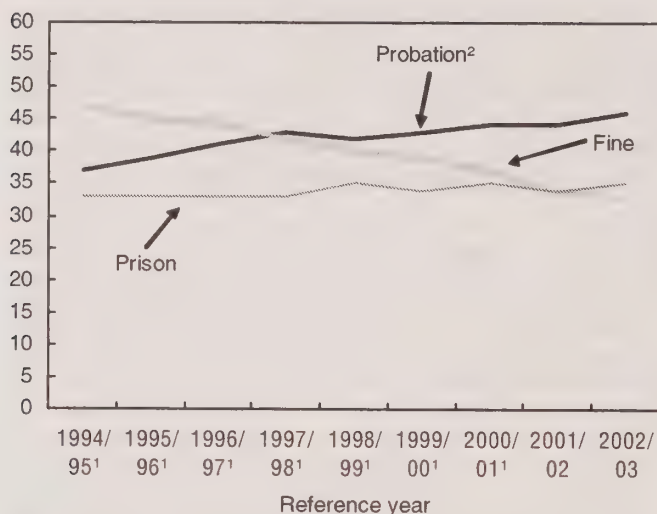
46. The inclusion of superior court data in four of the eight jurisdictions for 2002/03 had no impact on the incarceration rate.

The proportion of cases receiving probation as a sanction has increased since 1994/95 from 37% to 46% in 2002/03 (Figure 10).⁴⁷ Since 1994/95, the mean length of probation orders has remained unchanged (473 days).

Figure 10

Convicted cases by type of sentence, Eight provinces and territories in Canada, 1994/95 to 2002/03

Percent of convicted cases



Notes: The sentence types presented are not mutually exclusive and will not add to 100. Superior court data was collected in Alberta from 1998/99, in Yukon from 1999/00, in Prince Edward Island from 2000/01, in New Brunswick and British Columbia in 2001/02, and in Nova Scotia in 2002/03. Cases completed in superior courts represent less than 1% of total cases in each of these jurisdictions. Time in custody prior to sentencing is sometimes taken into consideration when imposing a sentence. The length of time in custody prior to sentencing and the extent to which it influences the sanction imposed are not available from the ACCS. This figure does not include data from New Brunswick, Manitoba, British Columbia, Northwest Territories and Nunavut.

1. Revised figures for 1994/95 to 2000/01. Revisions were the result of changes to the ACCS offence classifications. See methodology section for more information on ACCS counting procedures.
2. Probation totals include mandatory probation for cases given a conditional discharge (approximately 5% of cases with a guilty finding) or a suspended sentence (approximately 14% of cases with a guilty finding).

Source: Adult Criminal Court Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

Since 1994/95, the imposition of fine sentences has been decreasing (Figure 10). In 2002/03, 33% of convicted cases were given a fine, compared to 47% in 1994/95. The mean amount of fine,⁴⁸ which was \$502 in 1994/95, increased to \$750 in 2002/03.

Methodology

The purpose of the Adult Criminal Court Survey (ACCS) is to provide a national database of statistical information on the processing of cases through the adult criminal court system. The survey consists of a census of *Criminal Code* and other federal statute charges dealt with in adult criminal courts. The ACCS represents approximately 90% of the national adult criminal court caseload.

Coverage

Some limitations on coverage of the survey should be noted. Manitoba is not included in the survey for any year. Data from Nunavut were included as part of the Northwest Territories prior to April 1, 1999; however, Nunavut has not reported to the ACCS since splitting from the Northwest Territories. Data from the Northwest Territories are not available for 1996/97, 2000/01, 2001/02 or 2002/03, and include two fiscal quarters of data for the territory in 1994/95 and three fiscal quarters of data in 1999/00. New Brunswick and British Columbia began reporting to the ACCS in 2001/02. There is slight under-coverage (i.e., less than 5%) of completed cases in British Columbia for 2001/02. Also, some court locations in Quebec are not included. Information from Quebec's 87 municipal courts (which account for approximately 26% of federal statute charges in that province) is not yet collected. Finally, with the exception of Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Alberta, British Columbia and the Yukon, no data are provided from superior courts.

The absence of data from all but six superior court jurisdictions may result in a slight underestimation of the severity of sentences imposed across Canada. The reason for this is that some of the most serious cases, which are likely to result in the most severe sanctions, are processed in superior courts. While these limitations are important, comparisons from one year to another are possible if the reporting jurisdictions used in the comparison are held constant.

Counting Procedures

The basic unit of count for the Adult Criminal Court Survey is a case. A case is one or more charges against an accused person or corporation, where the charges receive a final disposition on the same date. Charges are linked to a case on the basis of the accused identifier and the date of the last court appearance.

The Adult Criminal Court Survey counts a charge more than once under any of the following circumstances:

- a charge is stayed in one time period and restarted in another time period;
- a charge is stayed and subsequently restarted with different case identifiers; or,
- a charge is transferred from one province/territory to another.

Transfers

The commencement of data collection from superior courts in 1998/99 resulted in changes to the data collection and processing methods used by the ACCS. In the jurisdictions providing superior court data (i.e., Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Alberta, British Columbia, and Yukon), changes in court level – either committals for trial in superior court, or re-elections to provincial court – are not

47. The inclusion of superior court data for four of the eight jurisdictions in 2002/03 had no impact on the proportion sentenced to a term of probation or sentenced to pay a fine.

48. Fine amounts are given in current dollars.

captured as final decisions for the reference period.⁴⁹ In contrast, elections to superior court are counted as final provincial court decisions in jurisdictions not providing superior court data (i.e., Newfoundland and Labrador, Quebec, Ontario, and Saskatchewan). This results in an under count of cases with a finding of guilt of approximately 2% in these jurisdictions.

Most serious offence and decision rules

When a case has more than one charge, it is necessary to decide which charge will be used to represent the case (since a case is identified by a single charge). In such multiple-charge cases, the "most serious decision" rule is applied. Decisions are ranked from the most to the least serious as follows: 1) guilty, 2) guilty of a lesser offence, 3) acquitted, 4) stay of proceeding, 5) withdrawn, dismissed and discharged 6) not criminally responsible, 7) other, 8) transfer of court jurisdiction.

In cases where two or more offences have resulted in the same decision (e.g., guilty), the "most serious offence" rule is applied. All charges are ranked according to an offence seriousness scale, which is based on the average length of prison sentence imposed on convicted charges between 1994/95 and 2000/01. If two charges are tied according to this criterion, information about the sentence type (e.g., prison, probation, and fine) is considered. If a tie still exists, the magnitude of the sentence is considered.

Grouped offences

The common offence classification system used by the ACCS permits users to compare analytical results across the different databases, and to examine data from different sectors of the justice system using a single set of offence categories. Each common offence category is constructed by aggregating individual UCR offence categories into the larger common categories. The following are some notes to consider for some offence categories composed of several offences:

Residual federal statutes: *Residual federal statutes* refers to offences against Canadian federal statutes, such as the *Customs Act*, the *Employment Insurance Act*, *Firearms Act* and the *Income Tax Act*.

Common assault and Major assault: There are three levels of assault in the *Criminal Code*: Assault Level 1, s. 266, Assault Level II, s. 267, Assault Level III, s.268. Common assault (Assault Level 1, s. 266) is the least serious of the three types of assault in the *Criminal Code*. Major assault is an offence category that includes the higher levels of assault in the *Criminal Code*: assault with a weapon (Assault Level II, s. 267), aggravated assault (Assault Level III, s. 268), and other assaults (e.g. assaulting a police officer, and unlawfully causing bodily harm).

Sexual assault: There are three levels of sexual assault in the *Criminal Code*: Sexual Assault Level 1, s. 271, Sexual Assault with a weapon Level II, s. 272, and Aggravated Sexual Assault Level III, s. 273.

Theft: Theft includes theft over \$5,000, theft under \$5,000 and other theft.

Fraud: Fraud includes fraud over \$5,000, fraud under \$5,000 and other fraud.

Factors influencing the number of charges laid

Charging policies are determined individually by provinces and territories. In British Columbia, Quebec, and New Brunswick, for example, the police must obtain the approval of the Crown prosecutor before a charge is laid. In other provinces and territories, the police have exclusive responsibility for the laying of a charge. This variability may affect the number and nature of charges laid across the country.

Comparisons with other sectors of the justice system

Policing:

The Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics conducts the Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) survey. This survey collects data on the crimes reported to the police. Counts from the UCR survey for offences cleared by charge are not comparable to the Adult Criminal Court Survey (ACCS) figures for charges disposed of. There are many reasons for this. In part, it is the result of scoring rules used by the UCR survey. The UCR survey counts violent offences in terms of the number of victims in the incident; non-violent offences are counted in terms of the number of separate incidents. Furthermore, the published UCR figures include offences involving youths, while the ACCS case counts include only the very few youth offences that have been transferred to adult court (<100 per year). Moreover, information is captured in the UCR with the laying of a charge, while in the ACCS; information is captured upon the court rendering a decision. This time lag in data collection between the two surveys further affects comparability.

Corrections:

The number of cases sentenced to prison, as reported by the ACCS, will differ from the number of actual admissions to correctional facilities. The CCJS conducts the Adult Correctional Services (ACS) Survey, which measures, among other things, the number of persons admitted to correctional facilities in Canada. The number of cases with prison sentences (ACCS) and the number of admissions to correctional facilities (ACS) differ because the number of sentenced admissions reported by the Adult Correctional Services survey includes persons sentenced to prison in superior courts for jurisdictions supplying superior court data, as well as admissions resulting from fine defaults. In 2002/03, only six jurisdictions, Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Alberta, British Columbia, and the Yukon, reported superior court data to the ACCS. Sentences to prison for reason of fine defaults are not collected by the ACCS survey. Also, any accused sentenced to time served prior to a sentence commencing would be counted differently in each survey. The ACCS does not have data on the duration of prison time already served, and the correctional data would identify these sentences as a remand prior to the completion of the trial.

49. The election is captured as a final decision if the election is the result for the final appearance record in the provincial/territorial court system during the data reference period. This situation is only possible near the end of the reference period when an accused elects to change their court level and the ACCS extracts court data prior to the next appearance of the accused in superior court or in provincial/territorial court on re-election from superior court.

Table 1

Appearances, charges and cases in adult criminal court, 10 provinces and territories in Canada, 2002/03

| Offence group | Charge appearances | | Total charges | | Total cases | |
|------------------------------------|--------------------|------------|------------------|------------|----------------|------------|
| | # | % | # | % | # | % |
| Total offences | 6,610,691 | 100 | 1,042,492 | 100 | 467,494 | 100 |
| Criminal Code total | 5,704,831 | 86 | 785,669 | 75 | 408,789 | 87 |
| Crimes against the person | 1,496,275 | 23 | 214,472 | 21 | 126,624 | 27 |
| Homicide | 8,376 | 0.1 | 643 | 0.1 | 524 | 0.1 |
| Attempted murder | 8,675 | 0.1 | 763 | 0.1 | 429 | 0.0 |
| Robbery | 101,307 | 1.5 | 10,556 | 1.0 | 5,878 | 1.3 |
| Sexual assault | 89,572 | 1.4 | 10,209 | 1.0 | 5,079 | 1.1 |
| Other sexual offences | 52,060 | 0.8 | 5,658 | 0.5 | 2,624 | 0.6 |
| Major assault | 333,309 | 5.0 | 44,971 | 4.3 | 27,744 | 5.9 |
| Common assault | 499,057 | 7.5 | 82,367 | 7.9 | 53,084 | 11.4 |
| Uttering threats | 287,786 | 4.4 | 44,255 | 4.2 | 23,901 | 5.1 |
| Criminal harassment | 51,813 | 0.8 | 7,292 | 0.7 | 3,983 | 0.9 |
| Other crimes against the person | 64,320 | 1.0 | 7,758 | 0.7 | 3,378 | 0.7 |
| Crimes against property | 1,757,513 | 27 | 265,615 | 25 | 106,111 | 23 |
| Theft | 450,504 | 6.8 | 78,672 | 7.5 | 40,786 | 8.7 |
| Break and enter | 223,379 | 3.4 | 30,942 | 3.0 | 13,557 | 2.9 |
| Fraud | 482,887 | 7.3 | 64,931 | 6.2 | 20,192 | 4.3 |
| Mischief | 196,801 | 3.0 | 33,360 | 3.2 | 12,124 | 2.6 |
| Possess stolen property | 383,699 | 5.8 | 54,951 | 5.3 | 18,394 | 3.9 |
| Other property crimes | 20,243 | 0.3 | 2,759 | 0.3 | 1,058 | 0.2 |
| Administration of justice | 1,118,166 | 17 | 209,853 | 20 | 80,072 | 17 |
| Fail to appear | 119,044 | 1.8 | 23,157 | 2.2 | 10,856 | 2.3 |
| Breach of probation | 401,889 | 6.1 | 72,980 | 7.0 | 28,447 | 6.1 |
| Unlawfully at large | 35,064 | 0.5 | 7,876 | 0.8 | 3,193 | 0.7 |
| Fail to comply with order | 523,594 | 7.9 | 100,417 | 9.6 | 35,098 | 7.5 |
| Other administration of justice | 38,575 | 0.6 | 5,423 | 0.5 | 2,478 | 0.5 |
| Other Criminal Code | 691,502 | 10 | 95,729 | 9 | 32,035 | 7 |
| Weapons | 219,133 | 3.3 | 27,284 | 2.6 | 6,825 | 1.5 |
| Prostitution | 25,298 | 0.4 | 4,165 | 0.4 | 2,661 | 0.6 |
| Disturbing the peace | 29,627 | 0.4 | 6,280 | 0.6 | 2,991 | 0.6 |
| Residual Criminal Code | 417,444 | 6.3 | 58,000 | 5.6 | 19,558 | 4.2 |
| Criminal Code traffic | 641,375 | 10 | 129,147 | 12 | 63,947 | 14 |
| Impaired driving | 520,839 | 7.9 | 110,269 | 10.6 | 53,554 | 11.5 |
| Other Criminal Code traffic | 120,536 | 1.8 | 18,878 | 1.8 | 10,393 | 2.2 |
| Other federal statute total | 905,860 | 14 | 127,676 | 12 | 58,705 | 13 |
| Drug possession | 193,170 | 2.9 | 33,171 | 3.2 | 19,145 | 4.1 |
| Drug trafficking | 292,057 | 4.4 | 32,089 | 3.1 | 16,680 | 3.6 |
| Young Offenders Act | 34,102 | 0.5 | 6,212 | 0.6 | 2,120 | 0.5 |
| Residual federal statutes | 386,531 | 5.8 | 56,204 | 5.4 | 20,760 | 4.4 |

Notes: Due to rounding, percentages may not add to 100.

For more information on grouped offences see methodology section.

In Quebec, most drug offences are recorded under residual federal statutes, resulting in an undercount of drug possession and drug trafficking cases and an overcount of residual federal statute cases.

Adult Criminal Court Survey data are not reported by Manitoba, Northwest Territories, and Nunavut.

Source: Adult Criminal Court Survey. Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

Table 2

Cases by age of accused, 10 provinces and territories in Canada, 2002/03

| Offence group | Total cases | Age group | | | | | | | | | |
|------------------------------------|-------------------|------------------|-------------|------------------|-------------|------------------|-------------|------------------|-------------|------------------|-------------|
| | | 18 to 24 | % | 25 to 34 | % | 35 to 44 | % | 45 to 54 | % | 55 plus | % |
| | | # | | # | | # | | # | | # | |
| Total offences | 458,690 | 141,542 | 30.9 | 129,536 | 28.2 | 115,513 | 25.2 | 50,507 | 11.0 | 21,592 | 4.7 |
| Criminal Code total | 402,241 | 119,485 | 29.7 | 114,633 | 28.5 | 103,867 | 25.8 | 45,067 | 11.2 | 19,189 | 4.8 |
| Crimes against the person | 123,956 | 30,705 | 24.8 | 36,664 | 29.6 | 35,642 | 28.8 | 14,805 | 11.9 | 6,140 | 5.0 |
| Homicide | 496 | 186 | 37.5 | 128 | 25.8 | 116 | 23.4 | 43 | 8.7 | 23 | 4.6 |
| Attempted murder | 416 | 163 | 39.2 | 118 | 28.4 | 76 | 18.3 | 32 | 7.7 | 27 | 6.5 |
| Robbery | 5,808 | 2,902 | 50.0 | 1,581 | 27.2 | 1,023 | 17.6 | 260 | 4.5 | 42 | 0.7 |
| Sexual assault | 4,981 | 993 | 19.9 | 1,309 | 26.3 | 1,361 | 27.3 | 766 | 15.4 | 552 | 11.1 |
| Other sexual offences | 2,582 | 307 | 11.9 | 650 | 25.2 | 857 | 33.2 | 412 | 16.0 | 356 | 13.8 |
| Major assault | 27,278 | 8,507 | 31.2 | 8,212 | 30.1 | 6,883 | 25.2 | 2,631 | 9.6 | 1,045 | 3.8 |
| Common assault | 51,769 | 11,435 | 22.1 | 15,887 | 30.7 | 15,564 | 30.1 | 6,469 | 12.5 | 2,414 | 4.7 |
| Uttering threats | 23,497 | 4,831 | 20.6 | 6,672 | 28.4 | 7,523 | 32.0 | 3,196 | 13.6 | 1,275 | 5.4 |
| Criminal harassment | 3,865 | 544 | 14.1 | 1,078 | 27.9 | 1,310 | 33.9 | 641 | 16.6 | 292 | 7.6 |
| Other crimes against the person | 3,264 | 837 | 25.6 | 1,029 | 31.5 | 929 | 28.5 | 355 | 10.9 | 114 | 3.5 |
| Crimes against property | 104,661 | 38,357 | 36.6 | 29,113 | 27.8 | 23,923 | 22.9 | 9,447 | 9.0 | 3,821 | 3.7 |
| Theft | 40,293 | 12,732 | 31.6 | 10,474 | 26.0 | 10,164 | 25.2 | 4,685 | 11.6 | 2,238 | 5.6 |
| Break and enter | 13,393 | 6,835 | 51.0 | 3,606 | 26.9 | 2,297 | 17.2 | 550 | 4.1 | 105 | 0.8 |
| Fraud | 19,844 | 5,637 | 28.4 | 6,396 | 32.2 | 5,157 | 26.0 | 2,027 | 10.2 | 627 | 3.2 |
| Mischief | 11,968 | 5,102 | 42.6 | 3,224 | 26.9 | 2,410 | 20.1 | 908 | 7.6 | 324 | 2.7 |
| Possess stolen property | 18,118 | 7,533 | 41.6 | 5,183 | 28.6 | 3,727 | 20.6 | 1,194 | 6.6 | 481 | 2.7 |
| Other property crimes | 1,045 | 518 | 49.6 | 230 | 22.0 | 168 | 16.1 | 83 | 7.9 | 46 | 4.4 |
| Administration of justice | 79,087 | 27,194 | 34.4 | 23,435 | 29.6 | 19,404 | 24.5 | 6,860 | 8.7 | 2,194 | 2.8 |
| Fail to appear | 10,713 | 4,096 | 38.2 | 3,223 | 30.1 | 2,360 | 22.0 | 777 | 7.3 | 257 | 2.4 |
| Breach of probation | 28,058 | 9,441 | 33.6 | 8,567 | 30.5 | 7,002 | 25.0 | 2,367 | 8.4 | 681 | 2.4 |
| Unlawfully at large | 3,154 | 974 | 30.9 | 1,102 | 34.9 | 811 | 25.7 | 226 | 7.2 | 41 | 1.3 |
| Fail to comply with order | 34,739 | 11,942 | 34.4 | 9,813 | 28.2 | 8,637 | 24.9 | 3,252 | 9.4 | 1,095 | 3.2 |
| Other administration of justice | 2,423 | 741 | 30.6 | 730 | 30.1 | 594 | 24.5 | 238 | 9.8 | 120 | 5.0 |
| Other Criminal Code | 30,949 | 10,765 | 34.8 | 8,610 | 27.8 | 7,057 | 22.8 | 3,115 | 10.1 | 1,402 | 4.5 |
| Weapons | 6,670 | 2,600 | 39.0 | 1,661 | 24.9 | 1,277 | 19.1 | 733 | 11.0 | 399 | 6.0 |
| Prostitution | 2,627 | 402 | 15.3 | 853 | 32.5 | 893 | 34.0 | 316 | 12.0 | 163 | 6.2 |
| Disturbing the peace | 2,975 | 1,183 | 39.8 | 762 | 25.6 | 655 | 22.0 | 273 | 9.2 | 102 | 3.4 |
| Residual Criminal Code | 18,677 | 6,580 | 35.2 | 5,334 | 28.6 | 4,232 | 22.7 | 1,793 | 9.6 | 738 | 4.0 |
| Criminal Code traffic | 63,588 | 12,464 | 19.6 | 16,811 | 26.4 | 17,841 | 28.1 | 10,840 | 17.0 | 5,632 | 8.9 |
| Impaired driving | 53,269 | 9,937 | 18.7 | 13,678 | 25.7 | 15,052 | 28.3 | 9,536 | 17.9 | 5,066 | 9.5 |
| Other Criminal Code traffic | 10,319 | 2,527 | 24.5 | 3,133 | 30.4 | 2,789 | 27.0 | 1,304 | 12.6 | 566 | 5.5 |
| Other federal statute total | 56,449 | 22,057 | 39.1 | 14,903 | 26.4 | 11,646 | 20.6 | 5,440 | 9.6 | 2,403 | 4.3 |
| Drug possession | 18,828 | 9,199 | 48.9 | 5,079 | 27.0 | 3,308 | 17.6 | 1,067 | 5.7 | 175 | 0.9 |
| Drug trafficking | 16,181 | 5,090 | 31.5 | 5,077 | 31.4 | 3,944 | 24.4 | 1,617 | 10.0 | 453 | 2.8 |
| Young Offenders Act | 2,068 | 2,063 | 99.8 | 4 | 0.2 | 0 | 0.0 | 1 | 0.0 | 0 | 0.0 |
| Residual federal statutes | 19,372 | 5,705 | 29.4 | 4,743 | 24.5 | 4,394 | 22.7 | 2,755 | 14.2 | 1,775 | 9.2 |
| Population¹ | 24,356,916 | 2,992,009 | 12.3 | 4,413,523 | 18.1 | 5,282,349 | 21.7 | 4,596,633 | 18.9 | 7,072,402 | 29.0 |

Notes: Due to rounding, percentages may not add to 100.

Age is the age of the accused at the time of the offence.

For more information on grouped offences see methodology section.

Excludes 8,176 (1.7%) cases where age of the accused was unknown or under 18 at the time of the offence and 628 (0.1%) cases against companies.

In Quebec, most drug offences are recorded under residual federal statutes, resulting in an undercount of drug possession and drug trafficking cases and an overcount of residual federal statute cases.

Adult Criminal Court Survey data are not reported by Manitoba, Northwest Territories, and Nunavut.

1. Population estimates as of July 2002.

Source: Adult Criminal Court Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

Table 3

**Mean and median elapsed time to complete a case in adult criminal court,
cases by jurisdiction and by case elapsed time,
10 provinces and territories in Canada, 2002/03**

| Jurisdiction | Total cases | Mean (in days) | Median (in days) | Elapsed time (in days) from first to last court appearance | | | | | | | | | |
|-----------------------------------|----------------|----------------|------------------|--|-------------|----------------------|-------------|-----------------------|-------------|------------------------|-------------|---------------|-------------|
| | | | | One day | | >One day to 4 months | | >4 months to 8 months | | >8 months to 12 months | | >12 months | |
| | | | | # | % | # | % | # | % | # | % | # | % |
| TOTAL | 467,494 | 194 | 105 | 65,416 | 14.0 | 185,713 | 39.7 | 92,649 | 19.8 | 57,564 | 12.3 | 66,152 | 14.2 |
| Newfoundland and Labrador | 6,790 | 159 | 77 | 1,566 | 23.1 | 2,575 | 37.9 | 1,316 | 19.4 | 705 | 10.4 | 628 | 9.2 |
| Prince Edward Island ¹ | 1,840 | 32 | 1 | 995 | 54.1 | 718 | 39.0 | 99 | 5.4 | 19 | 1.0 | 9 | 0.5 |
| Nova Scotia | 14,135 | 215 | 107 | 2,629 | 18.6 | 4,799 | 34.0 | 2,444 | 17.3 | 1,993 | 14.1 | 2,270 | 16.1 |
| New Brunswick | 9,785 | 147 | 68 | 2,428 | 24.8 | 3,935 | 40.2 | 1,955 | 20.0 | 691 | 7.1 | 776 | 7.9 |
| Quebec | 79,756 | 260 | 141 | 11,133 | 14.0 | 25,462 | 31.9 | 16,652 | 20.9 | 10,037 | 12.6 | 16,472 | 20.7 |
| Ontario | 213,638 | 190 | 114 | 21,399 | 10.0 | 88,533 | 41.4 | 42,577 | 19.9 | 30,100 | 14.1 | 31,029 | 14.5 |
| Saskatchewan | 27,463 | 165 | 69 | 6,408 | 23.3 | 10,351 | 37.7 | 4,593 | 16.7 | 2,832 | 10.3 | 3,279 | 11.9 |
| Alberta | 60,522 | 161 | 73 | 12,685 | 21.0 | 25,536 | 42.2 | 12,889 | 21.3 | 4,284 | 7.1 | 5,128 | 8.5 |
| British Columbia | 52,451 | 180 | 94 | 6,023 | 11.5 | 23,209 | 44.2 | 9,890 | 18.9 | 6,827 | 13.0 | 6,502 | 12.4 |
| Yukon | 1,114 | 127 | 64 | 150 | 13.5 | 595 | 53.4 | 234 | 21.0 | 76 | 6.8 | 59 | 5.3 |

Notes: Due to rounding, percentages may not add to 100. The Median represents the mid-point of a group of values when all values are sorted by size. Mean and median elapsed time is measured from first to last court appearance.

Information from Quebec's 87 municipal courts (which account for approximately 26% of federal statute charges in that province) are not available.

Mean and median elapsed time includes cases completed in superior courts in Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Alberta, British Columbia, and the Yukon.

Cases completed in superior courts represent less than 1% of total cases in each of these jurisdictions.

Adult Criminal Court Survey data are not reported by Manitoba, Northwest Territories, and Nunavut.

1. More than half the cases were dealt with by one court appearance; therefore the median is one day.

Source: Adult Criminal Court Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

Table 4

**Cases by decision,
10 provinces and territories in Canada, 2002/03**

| Jurisdiction | Total cases | Decision | | | | | | | |
|---------------------------|----------------|----------------|-----------|----------------|-----------|---------------|----------|---------------|----------|
| | | Found guilty | | Stay/Withdrawn | | Acquittal | | Other | |
| | | # | % | # | % | # | % | # | % |
| TOTAL | 467,494 | 279,351 | 60 | 158,753 | 34 | 14,205 | 3 | 15,185 | 3 |
| Newfoundland and Labrador | 6,790 | 4,652 | 69 | 1,878 | 28 | 7 | 0 | 253 | 4 |
| Prince Edward Island | 1,840 | 1,162 | 63 | 645 | 35 | 10 | 1 | 23 | 1 |
| Nova Scotia | 14,135 | 7,387 | 52 | 5,821 | 41 | 581 | 4 | 346 | 2 |
| New Brunswick | 9,785 | 7,209 | 74 | 2,036 | 21 | 380 | 4 | 160 | 2 |
| Quebec | 79,756 | 58,626 | 74 | 7,587 | 10 | 9,711 | 12 | 3,832 | 5 |
| Ontario | 213,638 | 115,073 | 54 | 92,105 | 43 | 1,075 | 1 | 5,385 | 3 |
| Saskatchewan | 27,463 | 17,429 | 63 | 8,809 | 32 | 290 | 1 | 935 | 3 |
| Alberta | 60,522 | 38,229 | 63 | 20,625 | 34 | 807 | 1 | 861 | 1 |
| British Columbia | 52,451 | 28,926 | 55 | 18,847 | 36 | 1,329 | 3 | 3,349 | 6 |
| Yukon | 1,114 | 658 | 59 | 400 | 36 | 15 | 1 | 41 | 4 |

Notes: Due to rounding, percentages may not add to 100.

Found guilty decisions include absolute and conditional discharges.

Stay/Withdrawn includes cases stayed, withdrawn, dismissed and discharged at preliminary inquiry.

Other decisions includes final decisions of found not criminally responsible, waived in province/territory, or waived out of province/territory. This category also includes decisions where a conviction was not recorded, the court accepted a special plea, cases which raised Charter arguments or cases where the accused was found unfit to stand trial. In jurisdictions not providing superior court data (i.e., Newfoundland and Labrador, Quebec, Ontario, Saskatchewan), the other decision category includes charges having a committal for trial in superior court as the decision on the final appearance in provincial court.

The calculation of conviction rates includes cases completed in superior courts in Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Alberta, British Columbia, and the Yukon.

Information from Quebec's 87 municipal courts (which account for approximately 26% of federal statute charges in that province) are not available.

Adult Criminal Court Survey data are not reported by Manitoba, Northwest Territories, and Nunavut.

Source: Adult Criminal Court Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

Table 5

**Convicted cases by type of sentence for the most serious offence in the case,
10 provinces and territories in Canada, 2002/03**

| Offence group | Convicted cases | Type of sentence for most serious offence | | | | | | | |
|------------------------------------|-----------------|---|-------------|-----------------------------------|------------|----------------|-------------|---------------|-------------|
| | | Prison | % | Conditional sentence ¹ | % | Probation | % | Fine | % |
| | | # | | # | | # | | # | |
| Total offences | 279,351 | 97,525 | 34.9 | 13,172 | 4.7 | 128,875 | 46.1 | 92,521 | 33.1 |
| Criminal Code total | 244,542 | 90,353 | 36.9 | 10,614 | 4.3 | 118,654 | 48.5 | 74,417 | 30.4 |
| Crimes against the person | 63,479 | 22,768 | 35.9 | 3,777 | 5.9 | 48,509 | 76.4 | 6,967 | 11.0 |
| Homicide | 154 | 135 | 87.7 | 10 | 6.5 | 13 | 8.4 | 3 | 1.9 |
| Attempted murder | 107 | 76 | 71.0 | 15 | 14.0 | 40 | 37.4 | 2 | 1.9 |
| Robbery | 3,341 | 2,401 | 71.9 | 271 | 8.1 | 1,810 | 54.2 | 39 | 1.2 |
| Sexual assault | 2,073 | 968 | 46.7 | 347 | 16.7 | 1,513 | 73.0 | 104 | 5.0 |
| Other sexual offences | 945 | 476 | 50.4 | 197 | 20.8 | 742 | 78.5 | 25 | 2.6 |
| Major assault | 14,369 | 6,510 | 45.3 | 1,197 | 8.3 | 10,210 | 71.1 | 1,626 | 11.3 |
| Common assault | 28,251 | 7,046 | 24.9 | 1,116 | 4.0 | 22,620 | 80.1 | 3,717 | 13.2 |
| Uttering threats | 11,125 | 4,020 | 36.1 | 423 | 3.8 | 8,949 | 80.4 | 1,254 | 11.3 |
| Criminal harassment | 1,933 | 588 | 30.4 | 117 | 6.1 | 1,765 | 91.3 | 115 | 5.9 |
| Other crimes against the person | 1,181 | 548 | 46.4 | 84 | 7.1 | 847 | 71.7 | 82 | 6.9 |
| Crimes against property | 66,486 | 26,760 | 40.2 | 4,247 | 6.4 | 36,906 | 55.5 | 12,813 | 19.3 |
| Theft | 26,748 | 10,374 | 38.8 | 1,285 | 4.8 | 13,444 | 50.3 | 6,355 | 23.8 |
| Break and enter | 9,324 | 5,447 | 58.4 | 784 | 8.4 | 5,864 | 62.9 | 540 | 5.8 |
| Fraud | 12,564 | 4,251 | 33.8 | 1,508 | 12.0 | 7,604 | 60.5 | 1,944 | 15.5 |
| Mischief | 7,395 | 1,516 | 20.5 | 107 | 1.4 | 5,001 | 67.6 | 1,748 | 23.6 |
| Possess stolen property | 9,844 | 4,942 | 50.2 | 495 | 5.0 | 4,596 | 46.7 | 2,099 | 21.3 |
| Other property crimes | 611 | 230 | 37.6 | 68 | 11.1 | 397 | 65.0 | 127 | 20.8 |
| Administration of justice | 50,947 | 26,590 | 52.2 | 1,192 | 2.3 | 16,528 | 32.4 | 13,397 | 26.3 |
| Fail to appear | 5,337 | 2,915 | 54.6 | 120 | 2.2 | 1,369 | 25.7 | 1,412 | 26.5 |
| Breach of probation | 20,171 | 10,300 | 51.1 | 516 | 2.6 | 7,031 | 34.9 | 5,359 | 26.6 |
| Unlawfully at large | 2,501 | 2,097 | 83.8 | 19 | 0.8 | 385 | 15.4 | 230 | 9.2 |
| Fail to comply with order | 21,496 | 10,796 | 50.2 | 450 | 2.1 | 6,971 | 32.4 | 6,028 | 28.0 |
| Other administration of justice | 1,442 | 482 | 33.4 | 87 | 6.0 | 772 | 53.5 | 368 | 25.5 |
| Other Criminal Code | 18,377 | 5,830 | 31.7 | 591 | 3.2 | 9,007 | 49.0 | 5,588 | 30.4 |
| Weapons | 3,787 | 1,152 | 30.4 | 141 | 3.7 | 1,982 | 52.3 | 1,084 | 28.6 |
| Prostitution | 1,214 | 310 | 25.5 | 15 | 1.2 | 523 | 43.1 | 404 | 33.3 |
| Disturbing the peace | 1,837 | 279 | 15.2 | 8 | 0.4 | 821 | 44.7 | 823 | 44.8 |
| Residual Criminal Code | 11,539 | 4,089 | 35.4 | 427 | 3.7 | 5,681 | 49.2 | 3,277 | 28.4 |
| Criminal Code traffic | 45,253 | 8,405 | 18.6 | 807 | 1.8 | 7,704 | 17.0 | 35,652 | 78.8 |
| Impaired driving | 37,988 | 5,131 | 13.5 | 388 | 1.0 | 5,441 | 14.3 | 32,477 | 85.5 |
| Other Criminal Code traffic | 7,265 | 3,274 | 45.1 | 419 | 5.8 | 2,263 | 31.1 | 3,175 | 43.7 |
| Other federal statute total | 34,809 | 7,172 | 20.6 | 2,558 | 7.3 | 10,221 | 29.4 | 18,104 | 52.0 |
| Drug possession | 10,202 | 1,390 | 13.6 | 124 | 1.2 | 2,992 | 29.3 | 5,657 | 55.4 |
| Drug trafficking | 7,497 | 3,292 | 43.9 | 2,371 | 31.6 | 2,493 | 33.3 | 1,383 | 18.4 |
| Young Offenders Act | 1,310 | 536 | 40.9 | 33 | 2.5 | 440 | 33.6 | 439 | 33.5 |
| Residual federal statutes | 15,800 | 1,954 | 12.4 | 30 | 0.2 | 4,296 | 27.2 | 10,625 | 67.2 |

Notes: The sentence types presented are not mutually exclusive and will not add to 100.

For more information on grouped offences see methodology section.

Probation totals include mandatory probation for cases given a conditional discharge (CCCs.730(1)) or a suspended sentence (CCC s.731(1)(a)).

Time in custody prior to sentencing is sometimes taken into consideration when imposing a sentence. The length of time in custody prior to sentencing and the extent to which it influences the sanction imposed are not available from the ACCS.

In Quebec, most drug offences are recorded under residual federal statutes, resulting in an undercount of drug possession and drug trafficking cases and an overcount of residual federal statute cases.

Adult Criminal Court Survey data are not reported by Manitoba, Northwest Territories, and Nunavut.

1. In 2002/03, conditional sentencing data were not available for Quebec.

Source: Adult Criminal Court Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

Table 6

**Cases in provincial and superior courts by mean and median elapsed time
five provinces and territories in Canada, 2002/03**

| Offence category | Total | | | | Provincial court | | | | Superior court | | | |
|--|----------------|------------|---------------------|-------------------|------------------|------------|---------------------|-------------------|----------------|------------|---------------------|-------------------|
| | # | % | Median (in days) | Mean (in days) | # | % | Median (in days) | Mean (in days) | # | % | Median (in days) | Mean (in days) |
| Elapsed time,¹ total cases | 138,007 | 100 | 84 | 172 | 135,156 | 100 | 81 | 167 | 2,851 | 100 | 316 | 407 |
| Crimes against the person | 32,896 | 24 | 115 | 184 | 31,606 | 23 | 112 | 175 | 1,290 | 45 | 319 | 411 |
| Crimes against property | 35,912 | 26 | 87 | 197 | 35,512 | 26 | 86 | 194 | 400 | 14 | 277 | 437 |
| Administration of justice | 22,978 | 17 | 29 | 115 | 22,928 | 17 | 29 | 114 | 50 | 2 | 323 | 345 |
| Other <i>Criminal Code</i> | 8,552 | 6 | 83 | 175 | 8,364 | 6 | 80 | 169 | 188 | 7 | 312 | 426 |
| <i>Criminal Code</i> traffic | 20,669 | 15 | 78 | 160 | 20,570 | 15 | 77 | 159 | 99 | 3 | 341 | 357 |
| Other federal statutes | 17,000 | 12 | 100 | 189 | 16,176 | 12 | 92 | 179 | 824 | 29 | 322 | 392 |

Notes: The median represents the mid-point of a group of values when all the values are sorted by size.

Median elapsed time is measured from first to last court appearance.

Please see table one for the list of offences included in each offence category.

Excludes cases where length of prison was not known, and cases where the length was specified as indeterminant. Cases sentenced to life imprisonment were recorded to 9,125 days (or 25 years) for the calculation of sentence lengths.

Superior court data is collected in Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Alberta, British Columbia, and Yukon.

Prince Edward Island superior court data does not include information on the number of appearances and elapsed time from first to last case appearance. As a result, data for Prince Edward Island have been removed from the analysis of the elapsed times in provincial and superior courts.

1. Five provinces and territories (i.e., Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Alberta, British Columbia, and Yukon). Data for Prince Edward Island have been removed from the analysis of the elapsed times in provincial and superior courts.

Source: Adult Criminal Court Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

Table 7

**Cases in provincial and superior courts by mean and median length of prison sentence
six provinces and territories in Canada, 2002/03**

| Offence category | Total | | | | Provincial court | | | | Superior court | | | |
|--|---------------|------------|---------------------|-------------------|------------------|------------|---------------------|-------------------|----------------|------------|---------------------|-------------------|
| | # | % | Median (in days) | Mean (in days) | # | % | Median (in days) | Mean (in days) | # | % | Median (in days) | Mean (in days) |
| Total cases with prison¹ | 25,596 | 100 | 30 | 124 | 24,987 | 100 | 30 | 99 | 609 | 100 | 540 | 1,147 |
| Crimes against the person | 4,736 | 19 | 60 | 332 | 4,398 | 18 | 60 | 229 | 338 | 56 | 730 | 1,672 |
| Crimes against property | 8,783 | 34 | 30 | 97 | 8,710 | 35 | 30 | 94 | 73 | 12 | 270 | 440 |
| Administration of justice | 6,830 | 27 | 7 | 18 | 6,816 | 27 | 7 | 18 | 14 | 2 | 45 | 71 |
| Other <i>Criminal Code</i> | 1,277 | 5 | 30 | 89 | 1,251 | 5 | 30 | 82 | 26 | 4 | 240 | 436 |
| <i>Criminal Code</i> traffic | 2,236 | 9 | 30 | 62 | 2,212 | 9 | 30 | 59 | 24 | 4 | 180 | 349 |
| Other federal statutes | 1,734 | 7 | 60 | 209 | 1,600 | 6 | 60 | 176 | 134 | 22 | 408 | 603 |

Notes: The median represents the mid-point of a group of values when all the values are sorted by size.

Median elapsed time is measured from first to last court appearance.

Please see table one for the list of offences included in each offence category.

Excludes cases where length of prison was not known, and cases where the length was specified as indeterminant. Cases sentenced to life imprisonment were recorded to 9,125 days (or 25 years) for the calculation of sentence lengths.

Superior court data is collected in Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Alberta, British Columbia, and Yukon.

Prince Edward Island superior court data does not include information on the number of appearances and elapsed time from first to last case appearance. As a result, data for Prince Edward Island have been removed from the analysis of the elapsed times in provincial and superior courts.

1. Six provinces and territories (i.e., Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Alberta, British Columbia, and Yukon).

Source: Adult Criminal Court Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

Table 8

**Number of cases heard in adult criminal court,
eight provinces and territories in Canada, 1998/99 to 2002/03**

| Offence group | 1998/99 ¹ | | | 1999/00 ¹ | | | 2000/01 ¹ | | | 2001/02 | | | 2002/03 | | |
|------------------------------------|----------------------|--------------|----------|----------------------|--------------|--------------|----------------------|--------------|--------------|----------------|--------------|--------------|----------------|--------------|-------------|
| | # | % | % change | # | % | % change | # | % | % change | # | % | % change | # | % | % change |
| Total offences | 384,437 | 100.0 | ... | 369,811 | 100.0 | -3.8 | 367,883 | 100.0 | -0.5 | 382,072 | 100.0 | 3.9 | 405,258 | 100.0 | 6.1 |
| Criminal Code total | 339,889 | 88.4 | ... | 325,289 | 88.0 | -4.3 | 323,418 | 87.9 | -0.6 | 337,001 | 88.2 | 4.2 | 356,148 | 87.9 | 5.7 |
| Crimes against the person | 97,295 | 25.3 | ... | 93,749 | 25.4 | -3.6 | 95,405 | 25.9 | 1.8 | 102,576 | 26.8 | 7.5 | 110,526 | 27.3 | 7.8 |
| Homicide | 473 | 0.1 | ... | 412 | 0.1 | -12.9 | 399 | 0.1 | -3.2 | 409 | 0.1 | 2.5 | 383 | 0.0 | -6.4 |
| Attempted murder | 378 | 0.1 | ... | 322 | 0.1 | -14.8 | 270 | 0.1 | -16.1 | 326 | 0.1 | 20.7 | 390 | 0.0 | 19.6 |
| Robbery | 4,652 | 1.2 | ... | 4,407 | 1.2 | -5.3 | 4,238 | 1.2 | -3.8 | 4,633 | 1.2 | 9.3 | 5,007 | 1.2 | 8.1 |
| Sexual assault | 4,545 | 1.2 | ... | 4,077 | 1.1 | -10.3 | 3,724 | 1.0 | -8.7 | 4,075 | 1.1 | 9.4 | 4,327 | 1.1 | 6.2 |
| Other sexual offences | 2,425 | 0.6 | ... | 2,164 | 0.6 | -10.8 | 2,098 | 0.6 | -3.0 | 2,089 | 0.5 | -0.4 | 2,310 | 0.6 | 10.6 |
| Major assault | 21,276 | 5.5 | ... | 20,793 | 5.6 | -2.3 | 21,196 | 5.8 | 1.9 | 22,549 | 5.9 | 6.4 | 24,781 | 6.1 | 9.9 |
| Common assault | 41,652 | 10.8 | ... | 39,491 | 10.7 | -5.2 | 40,656 | 11.1 | 3.0 | 42,989 | 11.3 | 5.7 | 45,707 | 11.3 | 6.3 |
| Uttering threats | 16,775 | 4.4 | ... | 17,061 | 4.6 | 1.7 | 17,620 | 4.8 | 3.3 | 19,724 | 5.2 | 11.9 | 21,087 | 5.2 | 6.9 |
| Criminal harassment | 2,458 | 0.6 | ... | 2,568 | 0.7 | 4.5 | 2,626 | 0.7 | 2.3 | 3,105 | 0.8 | 18.2 | 3,542 | 0.9 | 14.1 |
| Other crimes against the person | 2,661 | 0.7 | ... | 2,454 | 0.7 | -7.8 | 2,578 | 0.7 | 5.1 | 2,677 | 0.7 | 3.8 | 2,992 | 0.7 | 11.8 |
| Crimes against property | 95,269 | 24.8 | ... | 89,518 | 24.2 | -6.0 | 85,071 | 23.1 | -5.0 | 86,413 | 22.6 | 1.6 | 90,065 | 22.2 | 4.2 |
| Theft | 35,452 | 9.2 | ... | 33,039 | 8.9 | -6.8 | 31,002 | 8.4 | -6.2 | 32,046 | 8.4 | 3.4 | 33,168 | 8.2 | 3.5 |
| Break and enter | 13,911 | 3.6 | ... | 12,486 | 3.4 | -10.2 | 11,643 | 3.2 | -6.8 | 11,230 | 2.9 | -3.5 | 11,729 | 2.9 | 4.4 |
| Fraud | 19,365 | 5.0 | ... | 18,234 | 4.9 | -5.8 | 17,599 | 4.8 | -3.5 | 17,313 | 4.5 | -1.6 | 17,865 | 4.4 | 3.2 |
| Mischief | 9,662 | 2.5 | ... | 9,443 | 2.6 | -2.3 | 9,573 | 2.6 | 1.4 | 10,202 | 2.7 | 6.6 | 10,633 | 2.6 | 4.2 |
| Possess stolen property | 15,968 | 4.2 | ... | 15,386 | 4.2 | -3.6 | 14,424 | 3.9 | -6.3 | 14,837 | 3.9 | 2.9 | 15,710 | 3.9 | 5.9 |
| Other property crimes | 911 | 0.2 | ... | 930 | 0.3 | 2.1 | 830 | 0.2 | -10.8 | 785 | 0.2 | -5.4 | 960 | 0.2 | 22.3 |
| Administration of justice | 60,034 | 15.6 | ... | 60,455 | 16.3 | 0.7 | 64,144 | 17.4 | 6.1 | 67,644 | 17.7 | 5.5 | 71,599 | 17.7 | 5.8 |
| Fail to appear | 10,752 | 2.8 | ... | 10,072 | 2.7 | -6.3 | 9,860 | 2.7 | -2.1 | 9,963 | 2.6 | 1.0 | 9,891 | 2.4 | -0.7 |
| Breach of probation | 18,237 | 4.7 | ... | 19,287 | 5.2 | 5.8 | 20,729 | 5.6 | 7.5 | 21,874 | 5.7 | 5.5 | 23,809 | 5.9 | 8.8 |
| Unlawfully at large | 3,395 | 0.9 | ... | 3,285 | 0.9 | -3.2 | 3,338 | 0.9 | 1.6 | 2,942 | 0.8 | -11.9 | 2,953 | 0.7 | 0.4 |
| Fail to comply with order | 25,225 | 6.6 | ... | 25,614 | 6.9 | 1.5 | 27,886 | 7.6 | 8.9 | 30,656 | 8.0 | 9.9 | 32,650 | 8.1 | 6.5 |
| Other administration of justice | 2,425 | 0.6 | ... | 2,197 | 0.6 | -9.4 | 2,331 | 0.6 | 6.1 | 2,209 | 0.6 | -5.2 | 2,296 | 0.6 | 3.9 |
| Other Criminal Code | 28,329 | 7.4 | ... | 26,046 | 7.0 | -8.1 | 25,951 | 7.1 | -0.4 | 26,077 | 6.8 | 0.5 | 28,293 | 7.0 | 8.5 |
| Weapons | 5,538 | 1.4 | ... | 5,041 | 1.4 | -9.0 | 4,903 | 1.3 | -2.7 | 5,195 | 1.4 | 6.0 | 5,901 | 1.5 | 13.6 |
| Prostitution | 4,131 | 1.1 | ... | 3,379 | 0.9 | -18.2 | 2,765 | 0.8 | -18.2 | 2,250 | 0.6 | -18.6 | 2,455 | 0.6 | 9.1 |
| Disturbing the peace | 2,675 | 0.7 | ... | 2,541 | 0.7 | -5.0 | 2,517 | 0.7 | -0.9 | 2,711 | 0.7 | 7.7 | 2,719 | 0.7 | 0.3 |
| Residual Criminal Code | 15,985 | 4.2 | ... | 15,085 | 4.1 | -5.6 | 15,766 | 4.3 | 4.5 | 15,921 | 4.2 | 1.0 | 17,218 | 4.2 | 8.1 |
| Criminal Code traffic | 58,962 | 15.3 | ... | 55,521 | 15.0 | -5.8 | 52,847 | 14.4 | -4.8 | 54,291 | 14.2 | 2.7 | 55,665 | 13.7 | 2.5 |
| Impaired driving | 48,709 | 12.7 | ... | 46,387 | 12.5 | -4.8 | 44,036 | 12.0 | -5.1 | 45,002 | 11.8 | 2.2 | 46,580 | 11.5 | 3.5 |
| Other Criminal Code traffic | 10,253 | 2.7 | ... | 9,134 | 2.5 | -10.9 | 8,811 | 2.4 | -3.5 | 9,289 | 2.4 | 5.4 | 9,085 | 2.2 | -2.2 |
| Other federal statute total | 44,548 | 11.6 | ... | 44,522 | 12.0 | -0.1 | 44,465 | 12.1 | -0.1 | 45,071 | 11.8 | 1.4 | 49,110 | 12.1 | 9.0 |

Notes: Due to rounding, percentages may not add to 100.

For more information on grouped offences see methodology section.

Superior court data was collected in Alberta from 1998/99, in Yukon from 1999/00, in Prince Edward Island from 2000/01, in New Brunswick and British Columbia in 2001/02, and in Nova Scotia in 2002/03. Cases completed in superior courts represent less than 1% of total cases in each of these jurisdictions. The inclusion of superior court data resulted in an increase in the number of homicide cases reported.

Due to changes in the data collection of drug offences since the introduction of the controlled drugs and substances act, (i.e., some drug offences under the new legislation were originally coded to "Residual federal statutes") totals for the four offence groups under the other federal statutes category are not shown.

This table does not include data from New Brunswick, Manitoba, British Columbia, Northwest Territories, and Nunavut.

1. Revised figures for 1998/99 to 2000/01. Revisions were the result of changes to the ACCS counting procedures and offence classifications. See methodology section for more information on ACCS counting procedures.

... Not applicable.

Source: Adult Criminal Court Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

Table 9

Convicted cases by mean and median prison sentence,
eight provinces and territories in Canada, 1998/99 to 2002/03

| Offence group | 1998/99 ¹ | | 1999/00 ¹ | | 2000/01 ¹ | | 2001/02 | | 2002/03 | |
|------------------------------------|----------------------|-----------|----------------------|-----------|----------------------|------------------|------------|-----------|------------|-----------|
| | Mean | Median | Mean | Median | Mean | Median (days) | Mean | Median | Mean | Median |
| Total offences | 139 | 45 | 132 | 30 | 129 | 30 | 123 | 30 | 117 | 30 |
| Criminal Code total | 140 | 35 | 134 | 30 | 130 | 30 | 124 | 30 | 117 | 30 |
| Crimes against the person | 239 | 90 | 232 | 90 | 228 | 60 | 218 | 60 | 206 | 60 |
| Homicide | 3,472 | 2,190 | 3,711 | 2,190 | 4,138 | 2,780 | 3,212 | 1,825 | 3,959 | 2,280 |
| Attempted murder | 1,554 | 1,080 | 1,858 | 1,620 | 2,000 | 1,858 | 2,095 | 1,620 | 1,291 | 1,073 |
| Robbery | 739 | 540 | 736 | 540 | 738 | 540 | 720 | 540 | 624 | 420 |
| Sexual assault | 490 | 283 | 466 | 270 | 485 | 360 | 524 | 300 | 470 | 300 |
| Other sexual offences | 450 | 270 | 412 | 270 | 456 | 360 | 472 | 360 | 460 | 360 |
| Major assault | 153 | 90 | 152 | 90 | 151 | 90 | 151 | 75 | 149 | 60 |
| Common assault | 63 | 30 | 63 | 30 | 64 | 30 | 62 | 30 | 62 | 30 |
| Uttering threats | 94 | 60 | 97 | 60 | 87 | 45 | 85 | 45 | 90 | 45 |
| Criminal harassment | 102 | 60 | 91 | 60 | 94 | 60 | 103 | 60 | 89 | 54 |
| Other crimes against the person | 417 | 240 | 406 | 180 | 495 | 240 | 385 | 180 | 392 | 180 |
| Crimes against property | 143 | 60 | 138 | 60 | 135 | 60 | 126 | 60 | 121 | 45 |
| Theft | 85 | 30 | 75 | 30 | 75 | 30 | 71 | 30 | 66 | 30 |
| Break and enter | 268 | 180 | 276 | 180 | 269 | 180 | 261 | 180 | 256 | 150 |
| Fraud | 135 | 60 | 129 | 60 | 129 | 60 | 121 | 60 | 116 | 50 |
| Mischief | 48 | 30 | 52 | 30 | 53 | 30 | 48 | 30 | 48 | 30 |
| Possess stolen property | 101 | 60 | 99 | 60 | 98 | 60 | 94 | 60 | 92 | 45 |
| Other property crimes | 257 | 135 | 238 | 150 | 276 | 180 | 209 | 90 | 242 | 120 |
| Administration of justice | 35 | 24 | 34 | 21 | 32 | 20 | 31 | 15 | 28 | 15 |
| Fail to appear | 26 | 15 | 25 | 15 | 23 | 15 | 24 | 14 | 22 | 10 |
| Breach of probation | 41 | 30 | 38 | 30 | 37 | 30 | 37 | 30 | 34 | 21 |
| Unlawfully at large | 43 | 30 | 43 | 30 | 46 | 30 | 44 | 30 | 38 | 30 |
| Fail to comply with order | 26 | 15 | 28 | 15 | 24 | 15 | 23 | 14 | 21 | 10 |
| Other administration of justice | 95 | 30 | 76 | 30 | 80 | 30 | 67 | 30 | 71 | 30 |
| Other Criminal Code | 139 | 30 | 142 | 30 | 154 | 30 | 150 | 40 | 145 | 30 |
| Weapons | 125 | 60 | 118 | 60 | 137 | 60 | 123 | 54 | 121 | 45 |
| Prostitution | 52 | 8 | 38 | 7 | 37 | 5 | 40 | 8 | 29 | 7 |
| Disturbing the peace | 21 | 14 | 23 | 10 | 29 | 10 | 19 | 10 | 21 | 7 |
| Residual Criminal Code | 163 | 60 | 170 | 60 | 178 | 45 | 173 | 50 | 170 | 45 |
| Criminal Code traffic | 78 | 30 | 77 | 30 | 76 | 30 | 78 | 30 | 77 | 30 |
| Impaired driving | 70 | 30 | 65 | 30 | 67 | 30 | 72 | 30 | 73 | 30 |
| Other Criminal Code traffic | 91 | 45 | 96 | 45 | 91 | 45 | 87 | 42 | 84 | 30 |
| Other federal statute total | 226 | 90 | 200 | 60 | 197 | 60 | 178 | 60 | 174 | 60 |
| Drug possession | 35 | 15 | 31 | 15 | 28 | 15 | 23 | 10 | 27 | 10 |
| Drug trafficking | 304 | 120 | 299 | 120 | 288 | 90 | 250 | 90 | 231 | 90 |
| Young Offenders Act | 30 | 30 | 30 | 30 | 28 | 21 | 26 | 15 | 33 | 15 |
| Residual federal statutes | 253 | 90 | 205 | 90 | 217 | 90 | 222 | 100 | 213 | 120 |

Notes: Excludes cases where length of prison was not known, and cases where the length was specified as indeterminant. Cases sentenced to life imprisonment were recoded to 9,125 days (or 25 years) for the calculation of sentence length means.

For more information on grouped offences see methodology section.

Superior court data was collected in Alberta from 1998/99, in Yukon from 1999/00, in Prince Edward Island from 2000/01, in New Brunswick and British Columbia in 2001/02, and in Nova Scotia in 2002/03. Cases completed in superior courts represent less than 1% of total cases in each of these jurisdictions. The inclusion of superior court data resulted in an increase in the number of homicide cases reported.

Time in custody prior to sentencing is sometimes taken into consideration when imposing a sentence. The length of time in custody prior to sentencing and the extent to which it influences the sanction imposed are not available from the ACCS.

In Quebec, most drug offences are recorded under residual federal statutes, resulting in an undercount of drug possession and drug trafficking cases and an overcount of residual federal statute cases.

This table does not include data from New Brunswick, Manitoba, British Columbia, Northwest Territories, and Nunavut.

1. Revised figures for 1998/99 to 2000/01. Revisions were the result of changes to the ACCS counting procedures and offence classifications. See methodology section for more information on ACCS counting procedures.

Source: Adult Criminal Court Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

Table 10

**Convicted cases by mean and median probation sentence,
eight provinces and territories in Canada, 1998/99 to 2002/03**

| Offence group | 1998/99 ¹ | | 1999/00 ¹ | | 2000/01 ¹ | | 2001/02 | | 2002/03 | |
|------------------------------------|----------------------|------------|----------------------|------------|----------------------|------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| | Mean | Median | Mean | Median | Mean | Median (days) | Mean | Median | Mean | Median |
| Total offences | 479 | 365 | 476 | 365 | 475 | 365 | 474 | 365 | 473 | 365 |
| Criminal Code total | 491 | 365 | 487 | 365 | 485 | 365 | 484 | 365 | 481 | 365 |
| Crimes against the person | 518 | 365 | 516 | 365 | 517 | 365 | 512 | 365 | 512 | 365 |
| Homicide | 796 | 730 | 792 | 725 | 716 | 540 | 641 | 630 | 821 | 913 |
| Attempted murder | 894 | 1,095 | 859 | 1,095 | 765 | 730 | 748 | 730 | 763 | 730 |
| Robbery | 723 | 730 | 707 | 730 | 705 | 730 | 684 | 730 | 675 | 730 |
| Sexual assault | 658 | 730 | 670 | 730 | 638 | 720 | 655 | 720 | 646 | 720 |
| Other sexual offences | 782 | 730 | 764 | 730 | 800 | 730 | 787 | 730 | 791 | 730 |
| Major assault | 537 | 540 | 530 | 450 | 536 | 540 | 534 | 540 | 530 | 450 |
| Common assault | 445 | 365 | 443 | 365 | 447 | 365 | 438 | 365 | 441 | 365 |
| Uttering threats | 560 | 540 | 555 | 540 | 554 | 540 | 548 | 540 | 543 | 540 |
| Criminal harassment | 649 | 730 | 658 | 730 | 671 | 730 | 666 | 730 | 655 | 730 |
| Other crimes against the person | 641 | 730 | 615 | 540 | 616 | 540 | 647 | 730 | 620 | 540 |
| Crimes against property | 486 | 365 | 479 | 365 | 477 | 365 | 476 | 365 | 473 | 365 |
| Theft | 443 | 365 | 437 | 365 | 441 | 365 | 439 | 365 | 434 | 365 |
| Break and enter | 589 | 540 | 577 | 540 | 582 | 540 | 581 | 540 | 570 | 540 |
| Fraud | 522 | 365 | 519 | 365 | 518 | 365 | 519 | 365 | 512 | 365 |
| Mischief | 391 | 365 | 392 | 360 | 386 | 360 | 385 | 360 | 395 | 360 |
| Possess stolen property | 460 | 365 | 454 | 365 | 445 | 365 | 455 | 365 | 456 | 365 |
| Other property crimes | 595 | 540 | 599 | 540 | 598 | 540 | 565 | 540 | 586 | 540 |
| Administration of justice | 414 | 365 | 417 | 365 | 415 | 365 | 419 | 365 | 416 | 365 |
| Fail to appear | 409 | 365 | 401 | 365 | 394 | 365 | 393 | 365 | 386 | 360 |
| Breach of probation | 406 | 365 | 409 | 365 | 407 | 365 | 419 | 365 | 417 | 365 |
| Unlawfully at large | 411 | 365 | 412 | 365 | 403 | 365 | 394 | 365 | 381 | 365 |
| Fail to comply with order | 422 | 365 | 427 | 365 | 426 | 365 | 423 | 365 | 420 | 365 |
| Other administration of justice | 436 | 365 | 435 | 365 | 442 | 365 | 448 | 365 | 448 | 365 |
| Other Criminal Code | 479 | 365 | 483 | 365 | 476 | 365 | 479 | 365 | 473 | 365 |
| Weapons | 490 | 365 | 493 | 365 | 480 | 365 | 475 | 365 | 458 | 365 |
| Prostitution | 393 | 360 | 397 | 360 | 378 | 360 | 348 | 360 | 385 | 360 |
| Disturbing the peace | 338 | 360 | 321 | 360 | 319 | 360 | 332 | 360 | 342 | 360 |
| Residual Criminal Code | 511 | 365 | 516 | 365 | 512 | 365 | 514 | 365 | 504 | 365 |
| Criminal Code traffic | 361 | 360 | 368 | 360 | 375 | 360 | 383 | 360 | 390 | 360 |
| Impaired driving | 352 | 360 | 364 | 360 | 374 | 360 | 384 | 360 | 387 | 360 |
| Other Criminal Code traffic | 384 | 360 | 378 | 360 | 380 | 360 | 381 | 360 | 397 | 365 |
| Other federal statute total | 470 | 365 | 449 | 365 | 450 | 365 | 447 | 365 | 450 | 365 |
| Drug possession | 349 | 360 | 329 | 360 | 326 | 360 | 313 | 360 | 310 | 360 |
| Drug trafficking | 494 | 365 | 435 | 365 | 429 | 365 | 438 | 365 | 441 | 365 |
| Young Offenders Act | 352 | 360 | 331 | 360 | 355 | 360 | 356 | 360 | 354 | 360 |
| Residual federal statutes | 535 | 450 | 524 | 365 | 537 | 540 | 547 | 540 | 539 | 540 |

Notes: Probation totals include mandatory probation for cases given a conditional discharge (CCCs 730(1)) or a suspended sentence (CCC s.731(1)(a)).

For more information on grouped offences see methodology section.

Superior court data was collected in Alberta from 1998/99, in Yukon from 1999/00, in Prince Edward Island from 2000/01, in New Brunswick and British Columbia in 2001/02, and in Nova Scotia in 2002/03. Cases completed in superior courts represent less than 1% of total cases in each of these jurisdictions. The inclusion of superior court data resulted in an increase in the number of homicide cases reported.

In Quebec, most drug offences are recorded under residual federal statutes, resulting in an undercount of drug possession and drug trafficking cases and an overcount of residual federal statute cases.

This table does not include data from New Brunswick, Manitoba, British Columbia, Northwest Territories, and Nunavut.

1. Revised figures for 1998/99 to 2000/01. Revisions were the result of changes to the ACCS counting procedures and offence classifications. See methodology section for more information on ACCS counting procedures.

Source: Adult Criminal Court Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

Table 11

Convicted cases by mean and median fine amount,
eight provinces and territories in Canada, 1998/99 to 2002/03

| Offence group | 1998/99 ¹ | | 1999/00 ¹ | | 2000/01 ¹ | | 2001/02 | | 2002/03 | |
|------------------------------------|----------------------|----------------|----------------------|----------------|----------------------|----------------|--------------|----------------|--------------|----------------|
| | Mean (\$) | Median (\$) | Mean (\$) | Median (\$) | Mean (\$) | Median (\$) | Mean (\$) | Median (\$) | Mean (\$) | Median (\$) |
| Total offences | 577 | 300 | 722 | 330 | 1,175 | 500 | 721 | 500 | 750 | 500 |
| Criminal Code Total | 348 | 350 | 618 | 400 | 459 | 500 | 400 | 600 | 391 | 500 |
| Crimes against the person | 415 | 300 | 384 | 300 | 437 | 300 | 416 | 300 | 382 | 300 |
| Homicide | 575 | 525 | 500 | 500 | 660 | 700 | 2,000 | 2,000 | 617 | 750 |
| Attempted murder | 11,750 | 11,750 | 1,000 | 1,000 | 9,400 | 9,400 | 0 | 0 | 500 | 500 |
| Robbery | 413 | 300 | 524 | 300 | 543 | 400 | 449 | 300 | 366 | 300 |
| Sexual assault | 662 | 500 | 630 | 500 | 736 | 500 | 704 | 575 | 718 | 500 |
| Other sexual offences | 9,241 | 400 | 566 | 500 | 11,824 | 500 | 896 | 650 | 711 | 500 |
| Major assault | 453 | 350 | 443 | 350 | 466 | 400 | 466 | 400 | 447 | 350 |
| Common assault | 362 | 300 | 363 | 300 | 383 | 300 | 386 | 300 | 378 | 300 |
| Uttering threats | 278 | 200 | 262 | 200 | 293 | 250 | 266 | 200 | 278 | 200 |
| Criminal harassment | 327 | 250 | 305 | 250 | 459 | 250 | 380 | 300 | 328 | 250 |
| Other crimes against the person | 629 | 300 | 1,389 | 250 | 616 | 300 | 2,716 | 300 | 466 | 300 |
| Crimes against property | 333 | 200 | 408 | 200 | 511 | 250 | 345 | 250 | 360 | 250 |
| Theft | 275 | 200 | 290 | 200 | 295 | 200 | 272 | 200 | 281 | 200 |
| Break and enter | 444 | 300 | 433 | 300 | 474 | 350 | 460 | 350 | 420 | 350 |
| Fraud | 387 | 200 | 802 | 250 | 489 | 250 | 456 | 250 | 491 | 250 |
| Mischief | 243 | 200 | 271 | 200 | 281 | 200 | 284 | 200 | 281 | 250 |
| Possess stolen property | 487 | 300 | 498 | 300 | 1,332 | 300 | 472 | 300 | 510 | 300 |
| Other property crimes | 463 | 300 | 528 | 400 | 462 | 400 | 533 | 300 | 459 | 300 |
| Administration of justice | 212 | 150 | 218 | 150 | 232 | 200 | 247 | 200 | 236 | 200 |
| Fail to appear | 176 | 150 | 182 | 150 | 196 | 150 | 195 | 150 | 190 | 150 |
| Breach of probation | 233 | 200 | 246 | 200 | 261 | 200 | 270 | 200 | 263 | 200 |
| Unlawfully at large | 295 | 250 | 269 | 200 | 319 | 250 | 298 | 250 | 321 | 250 |
| Fail to comply with order | 178 | 150 | 182 | 150 | 197 | 150 | 203 | 150 | 206 | 150 |
| Other administration of justice | 484 | 300 | 497 | 300 | 447 | 300 | 897 | 300 | 508 | 400 |
| Other Criminal Code | 557 | 200 | 2,283 | 200 | 889 | 250 | 879 | 250 | 857 | 250 |
| Weapons | 316 | 250 | 312 | 250 | 332 | 250 | 377 | 250 | 348 | 250 |
| Prostitution | 292 | 200 | 372 | 200 | 503 | 250 | 431 | 250 | 556 | 300 |
| Disturbing the peace | 235 | 200 | 244 | 200 | 243 | 200 | 256 | 200 | 266 | 200 |
| Residual Criminal Code | 844 | 250 | 4,048 | 250 | 1,334 | 250 | 1,282 | 250 | 1,197 | 250 |
| Criminal Code traffic | 564 | 500 | 648 | 500 | 757 | 700 | 777 | 700 | 783 | 700 |
| Impaired driving | 560 | 500 | 650 | 600 | 767 | 700 | 787 | 700 | 792 | 700 |
| Other Criminal Code traffic | 602 | 500 | 621 | 500 | 644 | 500 | 664 | 500 | 692 | 600 |
| Other federal statute total | 1,053 | 200 | 1,064 | 200 | 3,400 | 200 | 1,296 | 250 | 1,468 | 250 |
| Drug possession | 302 | 200 | 294 | 200 | 323 | 200 | 320 | 200 | 334 | 250 |
| Drug trafficking | 1,214 | 700 | 1,432 | 600 | 1,387 | 750 | 1,144 | 800 | 1,557 | 750 |
| Young Offenders Act | 223 | 200 | 233 | 200 | 229 | 200 | 238 | 200 | 250 | 200 |
| Residual federal statutes | 1,318 | 140 | 1,383 | 150 | 5,258 | 200 | 1,961 | 200 | 2,065 | 200 |

Notes: In Quebec, most drug offences are recorded under residual federal statutes, resulting in an undercount of drug possession and drug trafficking cases and an overcount of residual federal statute cases.

For more information on grouped offences see methodology section.

Superior court data was collected in Alberta from 1998/99, in Yukon from 1999/00, in Prince Edward Island from 2000/01, in New Brunswick and British Columbia in 2001/02, and in Nova Scotia in 2002/03. Cases completed in superior courts represent less than 1% of total cases in each of these jurisdictions. The inclusion of superior court data resulted in an increase in the number of homicide cases reported.

This table does not include data from New Brunswick, Manitoba, British Columbia, Northwest Territories, and Nunavut.

1. Revised figures for 1998/99 to 2000/01. Revisions were the result of changes to the ACCS counting procedures and offence classifications. See methodology section for more information on ACCS counting procedures.

Source: Adult Criminal Court Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics

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Adult Correctional Services in Canada, 2001/02

by Denyse Carrière

Highlights

- On an average day in 2001/02, approximately 155,000 adults were either in custody or under supervision in the community in Canada. The adult correctional population in custody numbered slightly over 32,000 (21%) while just under 123,000 offenders (79%) were supervised in the community.
- The average daily count of persons serving a conditional sentence rose by 21% from 2000/01 to almost 12,000, and by 75% since 1997/98, the first full year that data were available following implementation of this sentence in September 1996.
- The average daily number of persons on remand increased by 7% from 2000/01 and 55% from 1993/94. The proportion of the total correctional population represented by people on remand stood at 5% in 2001/02.
- In 2001/02 the total incarceration rate (including federal, provincial and territorial inmates) was 133 inmates per 100,000 adult population, unchanged from 2000/01. Overall, the incarceration rate has been on a downward trend since 1994/95 (-13%), when the rate was 153 per 100,000 population.
- In 2001/02 there were slightly more than 361,000 admissions to correctional services in Canada, of which approximately 126,000, or 35%, were to remand. Probation and provincial/territorial sentenced custody also represented a significant proportion of admissions, accounting for 24% and 23% of the total respectively. Admissions to other correctional programs made up smaller proportions.
- Two-thirds of provincial and territorial admissions to custody were to remand and temporary detention in 2001/02. The 5% increase in the total number of admissions to custody at the provincial/territorial level from the previous year was mainly fuelled by the jump in the number of remand and other temporary detention admissions (+8%).
- Probation accounted for 75% of all admissions to community supervision, while conditional sentences represented 16% and federal statutory release, 4%. Provincial and territorial community supervision commencements, including parole, increased by 4% from 2000/01 while intakes to federal programs remained virtually the same.
- A minority of inmates in sentenced custody are female. In 2001/02, women constituted 9% of provincial and territorial admissions and 5% of federal admissions. In comparison, the percentage of female probationers was higher at 17%. These proportions have not changed in the last several years.
- The proportion of sentenced admissions for Aboriginal people in provincial and territorial custody increased from 17% in 1997/98 to 20% 2001/02, while the proportion in the federal system remained stable at 17%.
- Correctional service expenditures totalled \$2.6 billion in 2001/02. More than half (55%) of expenditures were in the federal system and 45%, in the provincial and territorial correctional systems. Overall, custodial services accounted for the largest proportion of expenditures (73%). In constant 1992/93 dollars total expenditures amounted to \$2.2 billion, up 5% from \$2.1 billion in 2000/01.



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Introduction

This *Juristat* provides information for the fiscal year 2001/02 and for recent trends in the adult correctional system, including the supervision of adult offenders in prison and in the community, as well as the cost of these services.

The federal government and the provincial and territorial governments share the administration of correctional services in Canada, which include custody (sentenced custody, remand and other temporary detention) and community-based sentences as well as statutory release and parole supervision. Correctional services agencies at both levels work toward the same goal, that is the protection of society as well as the rehabilitation of offenders and their safe reintegration into communities as productive members.

Offenders sentenced to custody by the court for a term of two years or more fall under federal jurisdiction. Federal correctional services are provided by the Correctional Service of Canada (CSC), an agency of Solicitor General Canada. While the CSC is responsible for the administration of sentences and supervision of offenders, decisions to grant, deny, cancel, terminate or revoke parole are made by the National Parole Board (NPB), which is also an agency of the Solicitor General Canada. The NPB operates at the federal level and in provinces and territories that do not have their own parole board.

Custody sentences less than two years and community-based sanctions, such as probation, are the responsibility of the provinces and territories, as are detention under remand (while the criminal case is being adjudicated) and other forms of temporary detention (e.g. immigration holds). In addition, three jurisdictions, Quebec, Ontario and British Columbia have their own parole boards and are authorized to grant releases to offenders serving less than two years in prison. (See the section on definitions at the end of the *Juristat* for a description of the different types of sentences and releases).

Text Box 1: Correctional programs

The Correctional Service of Canada (CSC) provides many programs to offenders. For example, the Women Offender Sector is responsible for policy and program development and implementation, and ongoing program delivery for federally sentenced women; Community Engagement promotes interaction between CSC and a number of outside community organizations and groups such as the Citizen Advisory Committee, the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, victims, and volunteers; and CORCAN is a special operating agency of CSC responsible for aiding the safe reintegration of offenders into Canadian society. CORCAN provides employment and training opportunities to incarcerated and recently released offenders.

In the provinces and territories, various programs have been developed to help rehabilitate and reintegrate offenders as well as to assist victims. For example, the ministère de la Sécurité publique in Quebec offers a varied training program to inmates, who often have limited education and weaknesses in the area of employment readiness. Training is available at the elementary and secondary levels in literacy, French and mathematics and is provided by the local school board under an agreement with the ministère de l'Éducation. Occupational training is also available as well as courses dealing with life skills, personal hygiene and other problematic issues identified by inmates.

The Yukon Community and Correctional Services have a Victims Services/Family Violence Prevention Unit to assist victims of crime and family violence, and to help rehabilitate offenders and abusive spouses. In New Brunswick, the Ministry of Public Safety has developed the Fine Option Program, which offers offenders who are unable to pay the fine imposed on them by the court, an alternative to the prison sentence that might be served for non payment. In lieu of a monetary payment, offenders can do voluntary work for a non-profit community or government organization.

The above are but a few examples of the many programs that have been implemented in the federal, provincial and territorial governments. Information on these and other programs is available on governmental Websites.

Data sources and measures

The data in this *Juristat* are drawn from two surveys conducted by the Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics: the Adult Correctional Services (ACS) Survey and the Resources, Expenditures and Personnel (REP) Survey for correctional services. More

detailed information is available in the report *Adult Correctional Services in Canada, 2001/02*, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, 2003.

This *Juristat* makes use of two basic indicators that describe the use of correctional services: the average number or count of offenders on any given day and the number of annual admissions to correctional facilities or to community supervision programs.

Average counts of persons in custody or serving a sentence in the community at a given point in time provide a snapshot of the daily correctional population and are used to calculate an annual average count. Managers in correctional services use average counts as an operational measure and as formal indicators of the utilization of bed space in institutions. Typically, correctional officials perform daily counts in their facility and monthly counts of offenders under community supervision. Statistics derived from one-day snapshot counts are more likely to include individuals serving longer sentences, and therefore, average count statistics are more representative of longer term inmates (i.e., more likely to be male, to have committed a more serious offence, to have a longer criminal record, etc.). For example remand offenders, whose time in custody is relatively short, represented 52% of provincial and territorial admissions in 2001/02, but only 41% of the average daily count.

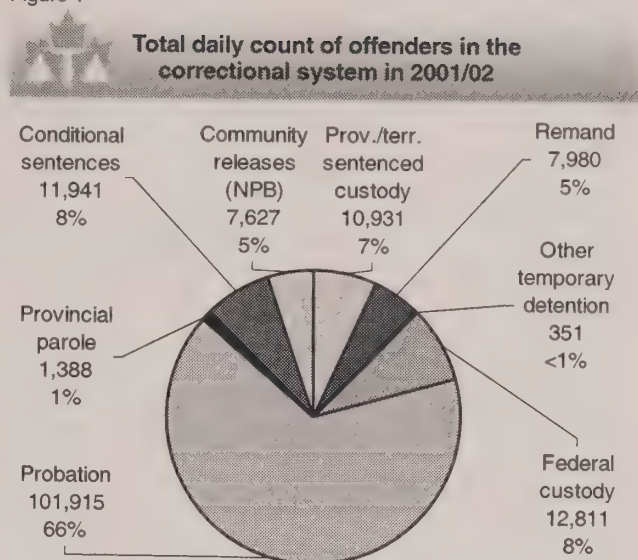
Admissions data are collected when an offender enters an institution or community supervision program, and describe and measure the caseload in correctional agencies over time. While admissions data capture all persons passing through the correctional system, they do not indicate the number of unique individuals using the correctional system. The same person can be included several times in the admission counts where the individual moves from one type of correctional service to another (e.g. from remand to sentenced custody) or re-enters the system in the same year. Although the ACS Survey attempts to standardize the way in which status changes are counted, limitations due to differences among jurisdictional operational systems may restrict uniform application of the definitions in some situations. For this reason, inter-jurisdictional comparisons of the number of admissions should be made with caution. Nevertheless, as a result of consistent counting practices within jurisdictions over time, statements can be made about the trends within each jurisdiction. For more information on definitions and limitations, please see the Methodology section at the end of the *Juristat*.

Offender count in the correctional system

On an average day in 2001/02, there were approximately 155,000 adults either in custody or under supervision in the community. The adult correctional population in custody numbered slightly over 32,000 (21%) in 2001/02, of which almost 24,000 were sentenced inmates, approximately 8,000 were on remand status and about 350 inmates were in temporary detention (Figure 1).

Just under 123,000 offenders (79%) were supervised in the community; almost 102,000 of them were on probation, 12,000 were serving a conditional sentence and just over 9,000 were

Figure 1



Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, *Adult Correctional Services Survey, 2001/02*.

on conditional release, such as parole or statutory release, from federal, provincial and territorial institutions.

The use of conditional sentences increased substantially in 2001/02

The average count of persons serving a conditional sentence rose 21% from 2000/01 to almost 12,000, and was 75% higher than in 1997/98, the first year that data were available on this sentence for the entire reference period. The average count of offenders on provincial parole dropped 6% from 2000/01, with a total decline of 64% since 1993/94.¹ In previous years the increase in conditional sentences coincided with a decline in the sentenced custody caseload in all jurisdictions. However, in 2001/02 the average count of offenders in sentenced custody in provincial and territorial institutions² was virtually unchanged from 2000/01 (Text Table 1).

Since 1993/94 the proportion of the adult correctional population serving a custody sentence has dropped steadily. In 1993/94, 9% of the adult correctional population was serving a provincial or territorial custody sentence, and in 2001/02, the proportion had dropped to 7%. In contrast, the proportion of offenders serving a conditional sentence has increased to the point that this sentence now comprises a larger share of the total average daily correctional services population (8%) than does provincial or territorial sentenced custody.

1. Please note that due to missing admissions data in 1991/92 and 1992/93, the starting point for many time series analyses in this *Juristat* is 1993/94.
2. Excludes New Brunswick, the Northwest Territories and Nunavut due to missing data for some years.

Text Table 1

Composition of the adult correctional population, 1993/94, 1997/98, 2000/01 and 2001/02

| | 1993/94 | | 1997/98 | | 2000/01 | | 2001/02 | | % change from 2000/01 | % change from 1997/98 | % change from 1993/94 |
|---|---------------------------|---------------|----------------------------|---------------|---------------------------|---------------|---------------------------|---------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| | Average daily count | % of total | Average daily count | % of total | Average daily count | % of total | Average daily count | % of total | | | |
| Correctional services | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Custodial Supervision: | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Provincial/territorial custody, sentenced | 13,583 | 9.3 | 11,950 | 7.8 | 10,523 | 7.0 | 10,509 | 6.8 | -0.1 | -12.1 | -22.6 |
| Remand | 5,049 | 3.5 | 6,005 | 3.9 | 7,303 | 4.8 | 7,834 | 5.1 | 7.3 | 30.5 | 55.2 |
| Other temporary detention, provincial/ territorial | 89 | 0.1 | 266 | 0.2 | 426 | 0.3 | 321 | 0.2 | -24.6 | 20.7 | 260.7 |
| Total provincial/territorial custody | 18,721 | 12.8 | 18,221 | 11.9 | 18,252 | 12.1 | 18,664 | 12.1 | 2.3 | 2.4 | -0.3 |
| Federal custody, sentenced | 13,322 | 9.1 | 13,759 | 9.0 | 12,732 | 8.4 | 12,811 | 8.3 | 0.6 | -6.9 | -3.8 |
| Total custodial supervision | 32,043 | 22.0 | 31,980 | 21.0 | 30,984 | 20.5 | 31,475 | 20.4 | 1.6 | -1.6 | -1.8 |
| Community Supervision: | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Probation | 99,847 | 68.4 | 103,718 ^r | 68.0 | 100,526 | 66.6 | 101,815 | 66.0 | 1.3 | -1.8 | 2.0 |
| Provincial parole | 3,860 | 2.6 | 2,507 ^r | 1.6 | 1,474 | 1.0 | 1,388 | 0.9 | -5.8 | -44.6 | -64.0 |
| Conditional sentences | ... | ... | 6,818 ^r | 4.5 | 9,885 | 6.6 | 11,917 | 7.7 | 20.6 | 74.8 | ... |
| Total provincial community supervision | 103,707 | 71.1 | 113,043 | 74.1 | 111,885 | 74.1 | 115,120 | 74.6 | 2.9 | 1.8 | 11.0 |
| Community releases (NPB) | 10,132 | 6.9 | 7,481 ^r | 4.9 | 8,034 | 5.3 | 7,627 | 4.9 | -5.1 | 2.0 | -24.7 |
| Total community supervision | 113,839 | 78.0 | 120,524^r | 79.0 | 119,919 | 79.5 | 122,747 | 79.6 | 2.4 | 1.8 | 7.8 |
| Total correctional services | 145,882 | 100.0 | 152,504^r | 100.0 | 150,903 | 100.0 | 154,222 | 100.0 | 2.2 | 1.1 | 5.7 |

Note: Because of missing data for some years, data from New Brunswick, the Northwest Territories and Nunavut have been excluded.

^r revised

... not applicable

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Adult Correctional Services Survey.

Remand count continues to rise

Even more notable is the jump in the average number of persons on remand, which increased by 7% from 2000/01 and 55% from 1993/94. The proportion of the total correctional population represented by people on remand stood at about

5% in 2001/02. Remands have increased in all jurisdictions, except Yukon, where counts have been relatively stable (Text Table 2). Reasons for this increase are explored more closely in the discussion on admissions.

Text Table 2

Variation in the average number of offenders in provincial and territorial sentenced custody and on remand status between 1993/94 and 2001/02

| Province or territory | Sentenced custody | | | Remand | | |
|---|-------------------|---------|----------|---------|---------|----------|
| | 1993/94 | 2001/02 | % change | 1993/94 | 2001/02 | % change |
| Newfoundland and Labrador | 346 | 256 | -26.0 | 34 | 51 | 50.0 |
| Prince Edward Island | 88 | 51 | -42.0 | 8 | 11 | 37.5 |
| Nova Scotia | 363 | 187 | -48.5 | 73 | 112 | 53.4 |
| New Brunswick | 410 | 208 | -49.3 | 43 | 90 | 109.3 |
| Quebec ¹ | 2,328 | 2,195 | -5.7 | 1,217 | 1,318 | 8.3 |
| Ontario | 4,786 | 3,631 | -24.1 | 2,381 | 3,999 | 68.0 |
| Manitoba | 654 | 545 | -16.7 | 237 | 570 | 140.5 |
| Saskatchewan | 1,060 | 839 | -20.8 | 154 | 303 | 96.8 |
| Alberta | 2,240 | 1,369 | -38.9 | 478 | 714 | 49.4 |
| British Columbia | 1,664 | 1,400 | -15.9 | 449 | 739 | 64.6 |
| Yukon | 55 | 37 | -32.7 | 18 | 17 | -5.6 |
| Northwest Territories (including Nunavut) ² | 258 | 214 | -17.1 | 35 | 56 | 60.0 |

1. Please note that in Quebec, the sentenced custody count for 1993/94 includes offenders serving intermittent sentences, while the count for 2001/02 does not. To compare the two figures, the average count of offenders serving an intermittent sentence in 2001/02 (18) must be taken into account. When this figure is included in the calculation of percentage change, the variation becomes -4.9%.

2. Data for the Northwest Territories and Nunavut have been combined to allow calculation of percentage changes.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Adult Correctional Services Survey.

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Juristat, Vol. 23 no. 11 (Adult Correctional Services in Canada, 2001/02)

See item "Text Box 2: Provincial and territorial on-register counts" on page 5. The second paragraph reads as follows: In 2001/02, the average count of offenders in provincial and territorial custody was 19,263. The on-register count, in comparison, was 21,951, or 14% more than the number of inmates present on the day of the count. From Text table 3 it can be seen that this difference between the two measures varied widely among the jurisdictions, generally being larger in the east than in the west. In Prince Edward Island, for example, the on-register count was markedly different from the average actual-in count, being 118.5% higher.

It should read as follows:

In 2001/02, the average count of offenders in provincial and territorial custody was 19,262. The on-register count, in comparison, was 21,874, or 13.6% more than the number of inmates present on the day of the count. From Text table 3 it can be seen that this difference between the two measures varied widely among the jurisdictions, generally being larger in the east than in the west.

The last sentence in Text Box 2 describing Prince Edward Island's on-register count as markedly higher than the actual-in count is incorrect. These two counts are the same.

Also see item "Text Table 3: Comparison of average actual-in and on-register counts, 2001/02" on page 5.

The numbers should read as follows:

The on-register count for Prince Edward Island should read 65 and the percent difference between the actual-in and on-register count is 0.0. The actual-in-count for Manitoba should read 1,114. The actual-in-count for all provinces and territories should read 19,262, the on-register count should read 21,874 and the percent difference between the actual-in and on-register count is 13.6.

Text Box 2: Provincial and territorial on-register counts

The average actual-in count of offenders in custody is a measure of the number of persons present on the day of the count and is useful to correctional authorities in determining space requirements and costs. In the provincial and territorial systems this measure excludes inmates who are temporarily absent for various reasons, such as inmates on temporary leave or who are unlawfully at large. The on-register count, however, includes these inmates and can provide a more complete picture of the number of inmates under the authority of the custodial system.

In 2001/02, the average count of offenders in provincial and territorial custody was 19,263. The on-register count, in comparison, was 21,951, or 14% more than the number of inmates present on the day of the count. From Text table 3 it can be seen that this difference between the two measures varied widely among the jurisdictions, generally being larger in the east than in the west. In Prince Edward Island, for example, the on-register count was markedly different from the average actual-in count, being 118.5% higher.

Text Table 3

Comparison of average actual-in and on-register counts, 2001/02

| Province or territory | Actual-in count | On-register count | % difference |
|-------------------------------|-----------------|-------------------|--------------|
| Newfoundland and Labrador | 317 | 360 | 13.6 |
| Prince Edward Island | 65 | 142 | 118.5 |
| Nova Scotia | 307 | 361 | 17.6 |
| New Brunswick | 313 | 412 | 31.6 |
| Quebec | 3,531 | 4,729 | 33.9 |
| Ontario | 7,850 | 8,419 | 7.2 |
| Manitoba | 1,115 | 1,336 | 19.8 |
| Saskatchewan | 1,142 | 1,237 | 8.3 |
| Alberta | 2,083 | 2,324 | 11.6 |
| British Columbia | 2,202 | 2,279 | 3.5 |
| Yukon | 54 | 62 | 14.8 |
| Northwest Territories | 187 | 187 | 0.0 |
| Nunavut | 98 | 104 | 6.1 |
| All provinces and territories | 19,263 | 21,951 | 14.0 |

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Adult Correctional Services Survey, 2001/02.

Incarceration rates show little change in 2001/02

When analysing the relative change in the size of the correctional population, it is useful to examine incarceration rates. This statistic is calculated as the number of adults in custody (sentenced and otherwise) per 100,000 adult population using the average actual-in custody count.

In 2001/02, the total incarceration rate (including federal, provincial and territorial custody) was 133 inmates per 100,000 adult population, unchanged from 2000/01. Overall, the incarceration rate has been on a downward trend since 1994/95 (-13%), when the rate was 153 per 100,000 population. From Figure 2, it can be seen that both the provincial/territorial and federal incarceration rates have contributed to this decrease.

Overview of annual admissions to correctional services

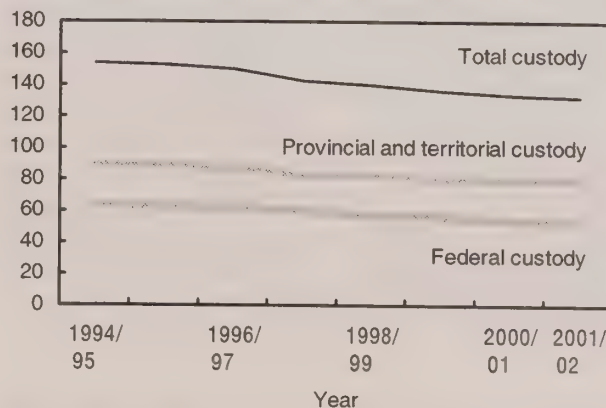
Remand makes up the largest portion of all admissions to correctional services

In 2001/02, there were slightly more than 361,000 admissions to correctional services in Canada, of which approximately 126,000, or 35%, were to remand (Figure 3). Probation and provincial and territorial sentenced custody also represented a significant proportion of admissions, accounting respectively for 24% and 23% of the total. Approximately 2% of admissions were to federal custody.

Figure 2

Incarceration rates for federal and provincial/territorial institutions, 1994/95 to 2001/02

Number of offenders in custody per 100,000 population



Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Adult Correctional Services Survey.

While 66% of persons under correctional supervision on any given day were serving a term of probation, admissions to probation only accounted for 24% of all admissions to correctional services. Conversely, while remand represented 5% of the count of persons under correctional supervision on an

Text Box 3: International incarceration rates

International incarceration rates are useful for identifying correctional trends among countries, even though differing methods of collection and coverage make direct rate comparisons inadvisable. Please note that the American rate in Text Table 4 excludes youth in custody, whereas the rate shown for all other countries, including Canada, takes youth in custody into account. The rate indicated for Canada in that table is therefore different from what is shown elsewhere in this *Juristat*.

Although Canada's incarceration rate was among the highest in the Western countries, it was one of a handful of countries recording a decrease from 1996 to 2000 (Text Table 4). In fact, Canada's drop was the largest among these countries (-14%), only Finland coming close with a decline of 10%. Of the countries with higher incarceration rates, Canada was the only one recording a drop, all others showing substantial increases over the five-year period. Among the countries that recorded an increase in their incarceration rate, New Zealand and Germany saw the largest, the rate jumping 17% in both countries.

Text Table 4

Variations in international incarceration rates over time

| Country | 1996 | 1997 | 1998 | 1999 | 2000 | % change from 1996 to 2000 |
|-----------------------------|------|------|------|------|------|----------------------------------|
| rate per 100,000 population | | | | | | |
| United States ¹ | 618 | 649 | 682 | 682 | 699 | 13.1 |
| New Zealand | 127 | 137 | 150 | 149 | 149 | 17.3 |
| England and Wales | 107 | 120 | 125 | 125 | 124 | 15.9 |
| Canada ² | 137 | 129 | 125 | 123 | 118 | -13.9 |
| Scotland | 101 | 119 | 119 | 118 | 115 | 13.9 |
| Australia ³ | .. | 95 | 110 | 108 | 108 | 13.7 |
| Germany | 83 | 90 | 96 | 97 | 97 | 16.9 |
| Italy | 85 | 86 | 85 | 89 | 94 | 10.6 |
| France | 90 | 90 | 88 | 91 | 89 | -1.1 |
| Austria | 84 | 86 | 85 | 89 | 84 | 0.0 |
| Switzerland | 85 | 88 | 85 | 81 | 79 | -7.1 |
| Sweden ⁴ | 65 | 59 | 60 | 59 | 64 | -1.5 |
| Denmark | 61 | 62 | 64 | 66 | 61 | 0.0 |
| Norway ⁴ | 52 | 53 | 57 | 56 | .. | 7.7 |
| Finland | 58 | 56 | 54 | 46 | 52 | -10.3 |

.. not available for a specific reference period

1. Figures represent incarcerated adults only.

2. Canadian youth custody figures for 1996 to 2000 were adjusted to represent 100% of survey coverage. Canada rates are reported on a fiscal year basis (April 1 to March 31). Please note that the Canadian rate includes youth in custody.

3. % variation between 1997 and 2000.

4. % variation between 1996 and 1999.

Source: Corrections and Conditional Release Statistical Overview, Solicitor General Canada, 2001.

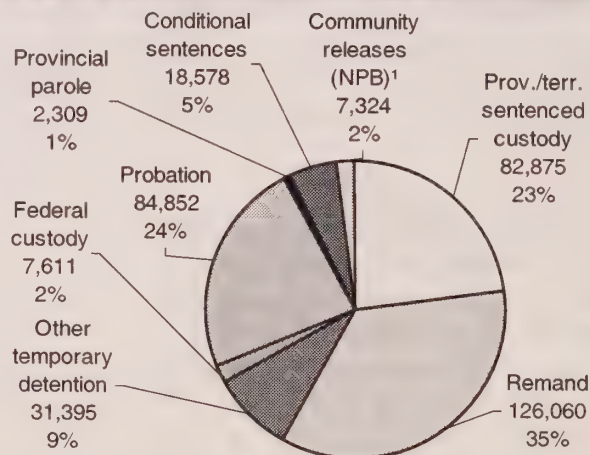
average day, it accounted for 35% of all admissions. This situation occurs primarily because terms of probation tend to be longer than the time spent on remand.

Total admissions to correctional services (excluding New Brunswick, Manitoba, the Northwest Territories and Nunavut³) jumped by 5% in 2001/02 from the previous year, to approximately 330,000, and have been climbing steadily since 1998/99, an increase of 10% over the four-year period. The number of admissions recorded in 1998/99, however, was the lowest in 11 years, so that the recent increase is actually a return to levels last seen in the early nineties. In fact, the number of admissions recorded in 2001/02 was 2% higher than the number reported in 1993/94 (323,935) (Text Table 5).

The increase in the total number of admissions to correctional services in 2001/02 occurred entirely in the provincial and territorial correctional systems (315,327), where admissions have grown by 5% from 2000/01 (299,587). This is in contrast with federal admissions, which have dropped slightly over two years. In 2001/02, federal admissions to custody decreased by 4% from the previous year and federal admissions to

Figure 3

Admissions to correctional services, 2001/02



1. Includes full parole, day parole and statutory release only.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Adult Correctional Services Survey, 2001/02.

3. Together, these jurisdictions accounted for 9% of all provincial and territorial admissions to correctional services in 2001/02.

Text Table 5



Admissions to correctional services, 1993/94 to 2001/02

| | 1993/94 | 1994/95 | 1995/96 | 1996/97 | 1997/98 | 1998/99 | 1999/00 | 2000/01 | 2001/02 |
|------------------------------------|---------|---------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|---------|
| Provincial/territorial | | | | | | | | | |
| Custody | 224,350 | 223,032 | 216,163 | 215,754 | 202,949 | 195,800 | 199,971 | 207,750 | 219,077 |
| Community supervision | 81,511 | 80,097 | 77,496 | 87,496 | 92,395 | 89,879 | 90,008 | 91,837 | 96,250 |
| Prov./terr. admissions | 305,861 | 303,129 | 293,659 | 303,250 | 295,344 | 285,679 | 289,979 | 299,587 | 315,327 |
| Federal | | | | | | | | | |
| Custody | 9,934 | 9,079 | 7,838 ^r | 7,629 ^r | 7,342 ^r | 7,855 ^r | 7,906 ^r | 7,889 ^r | 7,611 |
| Community supervision ¹ | 8,140 | 7,406 | 7,487 | 6,987 | 7,676 | 7,648 | 7,647 | 7,374 | 7,324 |
| Federal admissions | 18,074 | 16,485 | 15,325 ^r | 14,616 ^r | 15,018 ^r | 15,503 ^r | 15,553 ^r | 15,263 ^r | 14,935 |
| Total | | | | | | | | | |
| Custody | 234,284 | 232,111 | 224,001 ^r | 223,383 ^r | 210,291 ^r | 203,655 ^r | 207,877 ^r | 215,639 ^r | 226,688 |
| Community supervision | 89,651 | 87,503 | 84,983 | 94,483 | 100,071 | 97,527 | 97,655 | 99,211 | 103,574 |
| Total admissions | 323,935 | 319,614 | 308,984 ^r | 317,866 ^r | 310,362 ^r | 301,182 ^r | 305,532 ^r | 314,850 ^r | 330,262 |

Note: Due to missing data for some years, New Brunswick, Manitoba, the Northwest Territories and Nunavut have been excluded.
^r revised

¹ This category represents movement from custody to federal conditional release.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Adult Correctional Services Survey.

community supervision, by 1%. Overall, admissions to provincial and territorial correctional services accounted for 95% of all admissions in 2001/02.

Admissions to custody

Remand and other types of temporary detention are driving the increase in custodial admissions

In 2001/02, there were approximately 240,300 provincial and territorial admissions to custody, 5% higher than in 2000/01 (Table 1). Almost two-thirds of these admissions were to non-sentenced custody (remand and other temporary detention). The increase in provincial and territorial admissions to custody is mainly the result of the jump in the number of remand and other temporary detention admissions (+8%) (excluding New Brunswick). Since 1999/00, these types of admissions have risen by 18%. At the provincial/territorial level, all jurisdictions except the Northwest Territories have recorded increases in non-sentenced admissions over the four-year period starting in 1998/99. The largest increase over the four-year period was noted in British Columbia (117%), while in the Northwest Territories, non-sentenced admissions have decreased by 81% since 1998/99.

Provincial and territorial admissions to sentenced custody stabilize

In 2001/02, admissions to provincial and territorial sentenced custody remained largely unchanged from the previous year, the first year that the number of admissions did not decline since 1992/93 (Table 1). Overall, the 2001/02 levels represent only a slight decrease (-4%) from those recorded in 1999/00.

Several provinces reported increases between 2000/01 and 2001/02, the largest being in Prince Edward Island (11%),

Text Box 4: Remand in the criminal justice system

Adults may be remanded to custody by the court for several reasons: there is a risk that they will fail to appear for their court date; they pose a danger to themselves or to others; they present a risk to re-offend; or detention is necessary to maintain confidence in the administration of justice. For most offences, the onus is on the prosecutor to establish justification for detaining persons prior to the adjudication of the court case. As an alternative to remand, the court may release the accused on an order of 'judicial interim release' (bail). The accused may be required to deposit funds or abide by specific conditions as directed by the court.

After reaching a low in 1998/99 (103,874), remand admissions to custody had grown to just under 125,000 by 2001/02, an increase of 5% from 2000/01 and 20% from 1998/99 (Table 1). The pattern in remand admissions is having an impact on the actual-in count of persons on remand, which, as mentioned earlier, increased by 7% from 2000/01 and 55% from 1993/94 (See "Remand count continues to rise"). As a result of these recent increases in remand combined with recent declines in the number of sentenced offenders, remand inmates comprise a progressively larger share of the provincial and territorial custodial population. Whereas in 1993/94, 27% of inmates in provincial and territorial custody were on remand status on an average day, 42% of inmates were in remand in 2001/02 (Text Table 1).

This rise in the number of remand admissions and average counts of persons in remand is a source of concern for correctional services administrators. The cost of housing inmates on remand status is relatively high since they are usually held in maximum security settings and need to be transported to and from the court during trial. As well, time spent in remand is especially difficult for the inmates who are in a situation of uncertainty, and who may have little access to recreation, work and rehabilitation programs and services because it is not known how long they will be in detention. These issues are discussed in a recently published study on the use of custodial remand in Canada.⁴

Saskatchewan (6%), Manitoba (4%), Ontario (3%) and Alberta (2%). All other jurisdictions reported decreases, the largest occurring in the Northwest Territories (-30%).

4. Sara Johnson. 2003. "Custodial Remand in Canada, 1986/87 to 2001/02." Juristat, 23, 7. Catalogue no. 85-002-X1E. Ottawa. Statistics Canada.

Inmates are incarcerated for a variety of offences and patterns differ among jurisdictions

In jurisdictions that classify admissions according to the most serious offence, there was considerable variation, in 2001/02, with respect to the offence profile of sentenced incarcerated offenders (Table 2).⁵ In some jurisdictions, violent offences were the most common. This was the case for Manitoba (57%), the Northwest Territories (49%), Ontario (32%) and Newfoundland and Labrador (27%). Other *Criminal Code* offences, such as failure to comply with an order, unlawfully at large or offences against public order, were most prevalent in Nova Scotia (38%), Saskatchewan (31%) and British Columbia (30%). In Prince Edward Island impaired driving was the most frequent offence (55%) whereas in Quebec, offences under provincial or municipal statutes were most common (59%).

Among jurisdictions that classify admissions to sentenced custody using the multiple charge method, other *Criminal Code* offences were most prevalent in Yukon (48%) and Alberta (36%), while in Nunavut, offenders were most often sentenced to prison as a result of a violence offence (40%).

In the federal system, 54% of sentenced admissions involved a violent crime as the most serious offence, while property crimes accounted for 19% of admissions. Robbery, which accounted for 20% of sentenced admissions, was much more frequent than the next most common offences, traffic or importation of drugs (14%), sexual assault and abuse (12%) and major assault (assault levels 2 and 3) (10%).

The majority of persons in provincial and territorial institutions are incarcerated for a relatively short time

Time spent on remand is generally very short. In 2001/02, 55% of persons on remand status spent one week or less in custody, and 80% spent one month or less. For 13% of remand inmates, the duration was between 1 and 3 months and for a small proportion the stay was between 3 and 12 months (6%) (Figure 4).

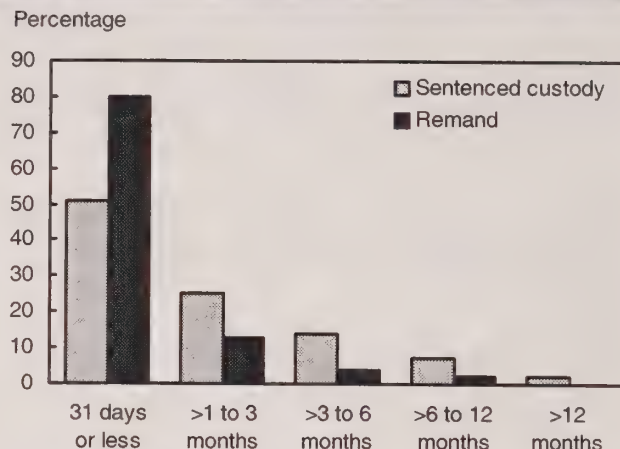
In more than 75% of custodial sentences in the provincial and territorial correctional systems, the duration of the incarceration was three months or less (Figure 4). One-half (51%) of inmates released from provincial or territorial custody under sentence had spent one month or less and 25% had been incarcerated between more than one month and three months.

For the nine jurisdictions⁶ for which median durations were provided, the median time spent in remand ranged from 2 days in Nova Scotia to 27 days in the Northwest Territories. In comparison, the median time served in sentenced custody ranged from 22 days in Alberta to 57 days in Saskatchewan.

In the federal system, terms under three years were ordered for less than half of admissions to custody under sentence in 2001/02 (47%), and 22% were between three and four years (Figure 5). For sentences in the federal system, a clear pattern towards shorter sentences has become apparent in recent years. Between 1999/00 and 2001/02, the proportion of sentences under three years increased from 43% to 47%, while that of sentences of four years or more, excluding life, decreased from 32% to 27% of all federal custodial sentences.

Figure 4

Length of time served, provincial and territorial releases from sentenced custody and remand, 2001/02

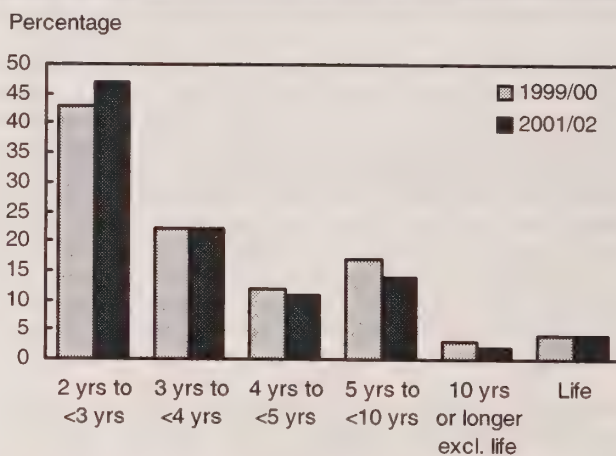


Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Adult Correctional Services Survey, 2001/02.

Four percent of admissions of offenders sentenced to federal custody were life sentences, this proportion having remained unchanged since 1999/00.

Figure 5

Length of aggregate sentences on admission to federal custody, 1999/00 and 2001/02



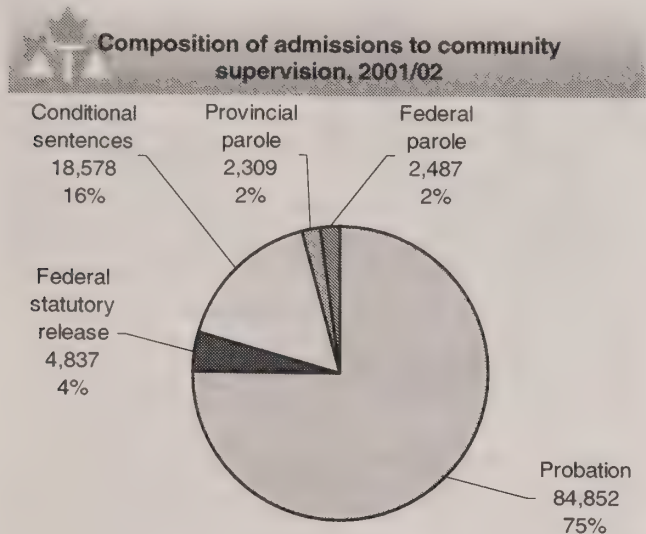
Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Adult Correctional Services Survey.

5. In the Adult Correctional Services Survey, when there is more than one offence leading to incarceration, only data related to the most serious offence in the case is recorded (except in Alberta and Yukon, which record all offences). As a result the less serious offences are under-represented.
6. These are: Nova Scotia, Quebec, Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta, British Columbia, Yukon and the Northwest Territories.

Admissions to community supervision

In 2001/02, there were over 113,000⁷ admissions to community supervision, of which probation accounted for 75% (84,852), conditional sentences for 16% (18,578), federal statutory release for 4%, provincial parole for 2%, and federal parole for 2% (Figure 6).

Figure 6



Note: Percentages may not add up to 100 due to rounding.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Adult Correctional Services Survey, 2001/02.

Probation commencements increase

In 2001/02 probation commencements (excluding those from Manitoba, Northwest Territories and Nunavut) were up 5% from 2000/01 and 8% from 1999/00 (Table 3). Although intakes to probation have fluctuated over the years, the 2001/02 figure is the highest since data collection began in 1980/81.

Increases of varying magnitude were recorded in several jurisdictions since 2000/01: Newfoundland and Labrador (12%), Ontario (9%), Quebec (7%), Prince Edward Island (6%), New Brunswick (6%) and Alberta (1%). The remaining jurisdictions reported decreases, the largest occurring in Manitoba (-23%).

This rise in the number of probation commencements is related to an increase in the number of probation sentences imposed by adult criminal courts. The number of these sentences increased from 96,607 in 1999/00, to 99,806 in 2000/01 and to slightly more than 101,600 in 2001/02 in the eight jurisdictions that provided data for the three-year period.⁸ This corresponds to increases of 5% from 1990/00 and of 2% from 2000/01. This upward trend is continuing, the number of probation sentences in the same eight jurisdictions having jumped to 113,120 in 2002/03. This will no doubt impact the number of probation commencements in correctional services in 2002/03.⁹

Violent offences more often lead to probation

Overall, probation admissions were more likely to be related to a violent offence than another type of offence, consistent with previous years (Table 4).

The percentage of probation intakes related to a violent offence ranged from 31% in Quebec to 53% in Ontario. In all jurisdictions but Quebec, the highest proportion of admissions to probation was for violent offences. In Quebec, the percentage of probation admissions resulting from a property crime (35%) was higher than that of admissions for violent offences.

Conditional sentences are still on the rise

In 2001/02, there were over 18,300 conditional sentence commencements. Conditional sentences were up 8% from the previous year and 26% since 1997/98, the first full year for which data were available following implementation of this sentencing provision in September 1996 (excluding Nunavut and the Northwest Territories due to missing data) (Table 3). Over the five years for which complete data have been collected, all of the jurisdictions have recorded increases to varying degrees. The largest increases from the previous year were reported by British Columbia (15%), Alberta (11%), Quebec (10%) and Manitoba (9%).

The introduction of conditional sentences in 1996/97 led to a decrease in the number of admissions to provincial and territorial sentenced custody in the late nineties. Although sentenced admissions to custody had begun to fall in the early 1990s in conjunction with the drop in the crime rate, an examination of the year-over-year variation in the number of sentenced admissions to provincial and territorial institutions shows that the rate of decrease intensified starting in 1996/97, when conditional sentences were introduced (Text Table 6). Although conditional sentence admissions rose again in 2001/02, this was the first year when an increase was not accompanied by a decline in sentenced custody admissions.

7. Excludes releases for warrant expiry, transfers, deaths and other reasons that do not require supervision.

8. Adult Criminal Court Survey — Type of Sentence, 1994/95 to 2002/03. 2003. Ottawa: Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics. Statistics Canada. Beyond 20/20 data table. Does not include New Brunswick, Manitoba, British Columbia, Northwest Territories and Nunavut.

9. Although trends in correctional data and courts data are similar, actual counts may differ for a number of reasons, including the following: in the correctional system, the unit of count, one case, represents an individual commencing a term of probation regardless of how many consecutive or concurrent terms of probation this person may have been given, while in the judicial system, the unit of count, one case, includes all the charges against one individual disposed of by the court on the same day, and will include only the terms of probation imposed on that day; if the same individual is involved in more than one court case in any given year and is given a term of probation in each case, this will count as many probation sentences. Additionally, a court case may result in more than one type of sentence, for example an offender may be given a term of custody followed by a term of probation. In such cases, the custody sentence will be served first, with the result that the probation sentence reported in one fiscal year by the Adult Criminal Court Survey (ACCS) may be reported by the Adult Correctional Services (ACS) Survey in a different year. Finally, the result of appeals is not taken into consideration in the ACCS data while it is in the ACS survey data.

Text Table 6

| Provincial and territorial admissions to sentenced custody | | |
|--|---------------------|----------|
| Year | Number ¹ | % change |
| 1993/94 | 112,947 | ... |
| 1994/95 | 111,233 | -1.5 |
| 1995/96 | 108,746 | -2.2 |
| 1996/97 | 103,015 | -5.3 |
| 1997/98 | 94,911 | -7.9 |
| 1998/99 | 89,379 | -5.8 |
| 1999/00 | 84,706 | ... |
| 2000/01 | 80,928 | -4.5 |
| 2001/02 | 81,320 | 0.5 |

... not applicable

1. To allow year-over-year comparisons, data from New Brunswick were removed from all years and data from Manitoba, from the years before 1999/00.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Adult Correctional Services Survey.

Day parole is more successful than full parole

For federal offenders, three types of conditional release are available: day parole, full parole and statutory release. Offenders are entitled to apply for day parole six months prior to full parole eligibility or after one sixth of their sentence has been served, for cases that meet the accelerated parole review criteria.¹⁰ However, in practice, the average offender is released on day parole after having served about one third of his/her sentence.¹¹ Day parole permits offenders to participate in activities (e.g. training or treatment programs) in the community, be under close supervision, and live in a halfway house in the community or in a community correctional facility. In 2001/02, the National Parole Board (NPB) granted day parole to 72% of federal applicants, a proportion that has remained unchanged in the last three reporting periods. In comparison, the grant rate by the NPB for provincial applicants was 64% (Text Table 7), having decreased from 76% in 1999/00.

Text Table 7

| | Day parole | | | Full parole | | |
|---------------------------------|--------------------|----------------------|------------|--------------------|----------------------|------------|
| | Total applications | Applications granted | Grant rate | Total applications | Applications granted | Grant rate |
| | number | number | % | number | number | % |
| National Parole Board | | | | | | |
| Federal offenders | 4,427 | 3,170 | 71.6 | 3,840 | 1,658 | 43.2 |
| Provincial offenders | 286 | 183 | 64.0 | 461 | 259 | 56.2 |
| Provincial parole boards | | | | | | |
| Quebec | .. | .. | .. | 2,757 | 1,323 | 48.0 |
| Ontario | .. | .. | .. | 1,802 | 511 | 28.4 |
| British Columbia | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |

.. not available for any reference period

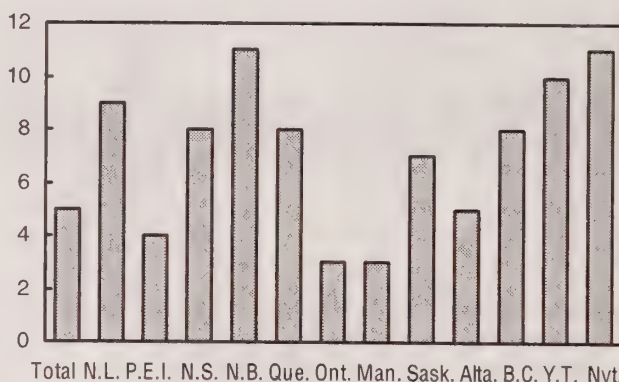
.. not available for specific reference period

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Adult Correctional Services Survey, 2001/02.

Figure 7

Jurisdictional use of conditional sentences, 2001/02

Percentage of total provincial and territorial admissions to correctional services



Note: The data for the Northwest Territories was unavailable.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Adult Correctional Services Survey, 2001/02.

Among the three types of conditional releases granted by the NPB to federal prisoners, day paroles were most likely to be completed successfully (83%). Of the NPB conditional releases granted to provincial prisoners, full paroles were most often successful (83%) (Text Table 8). Of the 3,230 day paroles granted to federal prisoners that ended¹² in 2001/02, 83% were successfully completed, 12% were revoked for breach of condition, and 5% were revoked as a result of a new conviction (4% for non-violent offences and 1% for violent offences).

10. Note that for the most serious offences, these eligibility provisions do not apply. Legislation and the sentencing judge determine eligibility for parole.

11. Corrections and Conditional Release Statistical Overview, Solicitor General Canada, 2002, p. 72.

12. Note that data on outcomes are based upon the number of terms of parole that ended in the year, not the number of offenders released on parole.

Text Table 8

Parole board outcomes,¹ 2001/02

| | Total releases | Successful completion | | Revocation | | Reason for revocation | | |
|---|----------------|-----------------------|--------------|------------|---------------|-----------------------|------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| | number | number | %total cases | number | % total cases | Breach of condition | Convicted of a non-violent offence | Convicted of a violent offence |
| | | | | | | % total cases | | |
| Day parole | | | | | | | | |
| Federal inmates—NPB | 3,230 | 2,673 | 83 | 557 | 17 | 12 | 4 | 1 |
| Provincial/territorial inmates—NPB | 168 | 129 | 77 | 39 | 23 | 20 | 3 | 1 |
| Full parole | | | | | | | | |
| Federal inmates—NPB | 1,782 | 1,324 | 74 | 458 | 26 | 16 | 8 | 2 |
| Provincial/territorial inmates—NPB | 284 | 235 | 83 | 49 | 17 | 15 | 2 | 0 |
| Provincial parole board releases ² | 2,511 | 1,986 | 79 | 517 | 21 | .. | .. | .. |
| Statutory release | | | | | | | | |
| Federal inmates—NPB | 5,099 | 3,022 | 59 | 2,077 | 41 | 27 | 11 | 3 |

Note: Percentages may not add up to 100 due to rounding.

.. not available for a specific reference period

... not applicable

1. Outcomes represent only those for which the conditional release was completed during 2001/02.

2. Total includes 8 terminations for other reasons.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Adult Correctional Services Survey, 2001/02.

Offenders are generally entitled to apply for full parole after one third of their sentence is served in custody or seven years, whichever is less. The average actual amount of time served prior to first federal full parole was 40% of their sentence in 2001/02.¹³ In 2001/02, 43% of the 3,840 applications for full parole made by federal offenders to the NPB were granted, as were 56% of applications made by provincial offenders to the NPB. Nearly three quarters (74%) of full paroles granted to federal offenders by the NPB that ended in 2001/02 were completed successfully; 16% were revoked due to a breach of condition; and 10% were revoked as a result of a new conviction (8% for non-violent offences, 2% for violent offences). These data do not include offenders serving life or indeterminate sentences as these offenders, by definition, remain under supervision for life.

Provincial parole board statistics show a lower grant rate than NPB statistics, but a comparable success rate for completed paroles. In 2001/02, 48% of applications for full parole made to the Commission québécoise des libérations conditionnelles were granted, as were 28% of applications made to the Ontario Board of Parole. Of the 2,511 paroles granted by provincial parole boards that ended in 2001/02, 79% were completed successfully, comparable to previous years.

Success rate of statutory release is lower

Federal offenders are eligible for statutory release after two thirds of a custodial sentence is served. Statutory release is much like full parole except that, unlike applications for day and full parole, the onus is on the Correctional Service of Canada to show why any offender should not be released. There were 5,099 statutory releases completed in 2001/02

(Text Table 8), virtually unchanged from 2000/01, but 5% more than in 1999/00.

Of the three types of conditional release, statutory releases were least likely to end successfully. In 2001/02, 59% of these releases were successfully completed; 27% were revoked for breach of condition; and 14% were revoked for a new conviction (11% for non-violent offences, 3% for violent offences). These percentages have varied little in the last few years.

Characteristics of offenders admitted to correctional services

Adults in the correctional system are most often male and in their early thirties

The majority of inmates in sentenced custody are male. In 2001/02, women constituted 9% of provincial and territorial admissions and 5% of federal admissions (Text Table 9). In comparison, the percentage of female probationers was higher at 17%. These proportions have not changed appreciably in the last several years.

Inmates in provincial and territorial sentenced custody are typically in their early thirties at the time of admission. The median age¹⁴ of all offenders admitted to custody ranged from 28 years in Manitoba to 35 years in Quebec, while in the federal

13. Corrections and Conditional Release Statistical Overview, Solicitor General Canada, 2002, p. 72.

14. The median age is the age where, if all the inmates are ordered by age, half the inmates are younger and half are older.

system, the median age was 32 years. For probationers the median age was similar, ranging from 28 years in Saskatchewan to 32 years in Quebec and Ontario. In the provinces and territories the median age of offenders being admitted to custody as well as of those commencing a period of probation has been increasing over the years, mirroring the aging Canadian population. This phenomenon is not quite as evident in the federal system, where median age statistics have only been available since 1996/97. Since that year, median age has fluctuated only slightly.

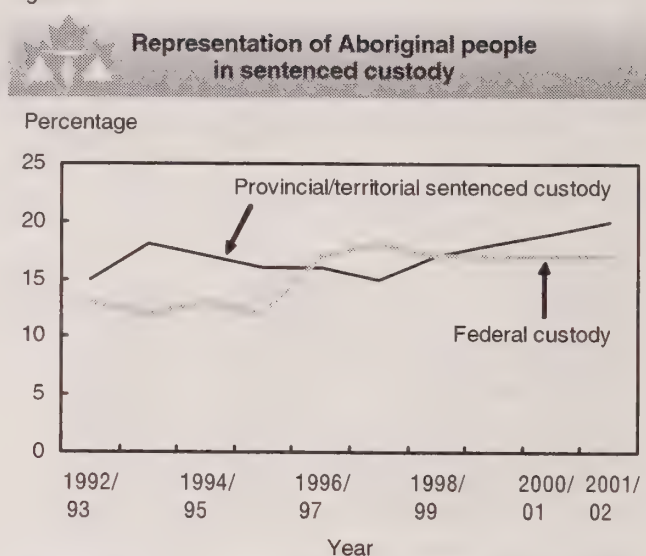
Aboriginal offenders continue to be over-represented as a proportion of federal, provincial and territorial sentenced inmates

In 2001/02, Aboriginal people accounted for 20% of provincial and territorial admissions to sentenced custody, 17% of federal admissions to custody and 16% of probation commencements in 2001/02. However, they represented only 2% of the adult Canadian population according to the 2001 Census of Canada.

Jurisdictions with a relatively large proportion of Aboriginal people in the adult population also reported a larger over-representation of Aboriginal offenders in their sentenced admissions (Text Table 9), e.g. in Saskatchewan (77% of sentenced admissions and 10% of the adult population); Yukon (76% versus 20%); Manitoba (69% versus 11%); and Alberta (38% versus 4%).

The proportion of sentenced admissions for Aboriginal people in provincial and territorial custody increased from 17% in 1997/98 to 20% 2001/02, while the proportion in the federal

Figure 8



Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Adult Correctional Services Survey, 2001/02.

system remained stable at 17%. The largest annual increases in the proportion of Aboriginal people in sentenced admissions were noted in Manitoba (from 64% in 2000/01 to 69% in 2001/02) and Yukon (72% to 76%). In Yukon, however, changes in the relatively small number of admissions tend to produce large annual fluctuations.

Text Table 9

Offender characteristics, 2001/02

| Jurisdiction | Sentenced custody | | | Probation | | |
|------------------------------|-------------------|----------------|------------|------------|----------------|------------|
| | Female (%) | Aboriginal (%) | Median Age | Female (%) | Aboriginal (%) | Median Age |
| Newfoundland and Labrador | 5 | 10 | .. | 16 | 10 | .. |
| Prince Edward Island | 7 | 3 | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| Nova Scotia | 6 | 7 | 30 | 15 | 5 | 31 |
| New Brunswick | 6 | 7 | .. | 16 | 8 | .. |
| Quebec | 10 | 2 | 35 | 13 | 8 | 32 |
| Ontario | 9 | 9 | 33 | 17 | 6 | 32 |
| Manitoba | 8 | 69 | 28 | 17 | 57 | 29 |
| Saskatchewan | 9 | 77 | 30 | 20 | 65 | 28 |
| Alberta | 12 | 38 | 31 | 17 | 21 | .. |
| British Columbia | 8 | 21 | 31 | 17 | 19 | 31 |
| Yukon | 6 | 76 | 32 | 14 | 65 | 30 |
| Northwest Territories | 7 | 90 | 30 | .. | .. | .. |
| Nunavut | 0 | 98 | .. | 16 | 95 | .. |
| Provincial/territorial total | 9 | 20 | ... | 17 | 16 | ... |
| Federal total | 5 | 17 | 32 | ... | ... | ... |
| Total | ... | ... | ... | 17 | 16 | ... |

.. not available for specific reference period

... not applicable

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Adult Correctional Services Survey, 2001/02; individual provinces and territories.

Text Box 5: Correctional facilities

In 2001/02, there were 198 correctional facilities across Canada. Slightly more than one third of these, or 68, were under federal jurisdiction: 16 facilities were federal community correctional centres with a capacity of 482 spaces, and 52 were federal institutions with 13,682 spaces. Federal facilities provided 40% of the total institutional capacity in Canada and capacity has increased by 10% since 1995/96. A total operational capacity of 21,090 spaces was reported in 130 provincial and territorial facilities. Seventy-nine percent (103) of these facilities were secure and the remainder (27) were open (minimum security). Since 1999/00, the capacity of correctional facilities—federal, provincial and territorial—has increased by 5%.

of factors such as the higher level of security required at federal facilities and the requirement to provide more extensive programming for offenders serving longer sentences. While the federal cost has climbed 18% since 1999/00, the average daily inmate cost in provinces and territories has gone down slightly (3%) over the same period.

Definitions

Custodial supervision/custody: Detention of a person in a secure facility (prison), including sentenced custody, remand and temporary detention.

Sentenced custody: Detention of offenders convicted of a crime, either in a federal (2 years or more), or a provincial or territorial (less than 2 years) facility.

Non-sentenced custody:

1) **Remand:** Court ordered detention of a person while awaiting a further court appearance.

2) **Temporary detention:** Incarceration of a person (who is not on remand or has not been sentenced) for other reasons, e.g. immigration matters, parole suspension.

Community supervision: Supervision of offenders on probation, conditional sentence and community release (parole or statutory release). Offenders in the community are often supervised by a probation or parole officer.

Probation: Disposition of the court where the offender is given a suspended sentence or conditional discharge and is released on conditions prescribed in a probation order. In addition to a fine or a sentence, the court may also direct the offender to comply with conditions of a probation order.

Conditional sentence: Disposition of the court introduced in 1996 where the offender serves a term of imprisonment in the community under specified conditions. Conditional sentences are more restrictive than probation, but less serious than custody. This type of sentence can only be imposed in cases where the term of imprisonment would be less than two years, and are therefore administered by provincial and territorial correctional agencies.

Community release: Supervision of offenders on day parole, full parole, statutory release and long term supervision. The National Parole Board (NPB) has the authority to grant, deny, terminate or revoke parole, to terminate or revoke statutory release, detain certain offenders, and grant unescorted temporary absences.

Parole: Programs of conditional release from custody into the community under the authority of parole boards.

Provincial parole: Programs of conditional release managed by administrative tribunals in Quebec, Ontario and British Columbia that have the authority to grant, deny, terminate or revoke parole in their jurisdiction.

Correctional service operational expenditures

Correctional service expenditures totalled \$2.6 billion in 2001/02. In that year, 55% of expenditures were in the federal system and 45%, in provincial and territorial correctional systems. Overall, custodial services accounted for the largest proportion of expenditures (73%), followed by community supervision services (13%) and headquarters and central services (12%) (Table 5).

Custodial services represented 69% of federal costs and 79% of provincial and territorial costs. Headquarters and central services costs accounted for 18% of federal expenditures, but 4% of provincial expenditures. In comparison, community supervision services comprised 11% of federal expenditures and 17% of provincial and territorial expenditures.

In constant 1992/93 dollars total expenditures amounted to \$2.2 billion, up 5% from \$2.1 billion in 2000/01. The cost of incarceration in the federal correctional system is considerably higher than it is in the provincial and territorial systems. In the federal system, an inmate cost Canadians an average of \$199.57 per day in constant 1992/93 dollars whereas \$114.14 was spent per inmate daily at the provincial/territorial level in 2001/02. The difference in inmate costs is the result of a number

Text Table 10

Average daily inmate cost¹

| Year | Federal system | Provincial and territorial |
|---------|-------------------------------|----------------------------|
| | (in constant 1992/93 dollars) | |
| 1999/00 | 169.04 ^r | 117.53 ^r |
| 2000/01 | 179.55 ^r | 117.29 ^r |
| 2001/02 | 199.57 | 114.14 |

^r revised

1. The average daily inmate cost is obtained by dividing the custodial services cost by the total days stay (not shown), which itself is based on the average count of inmates multiplied by the number of days in the year. It includes costs such as salaries, but excludes benefit plan contributions; capital expenditures, such as renovation and construction costs; and expenditures related to CORCAN. In 2001/02 the cost allocation methodology was refined to better reflect expenditures directly related to offenders. Because of this change, caution is recommended when comparing these data to data in previous publications.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Adult Correctional Services Survey; Public Accounts of Canada.

Day parole: Release of an offender into the community granted by the NPB or a provincial parole board to prepare the offender for full parole or statutory release. The conditions require the offender to return to a penitentiary, a community-based residential facility or a provincial correctional facility each night.

Full parole: Release of an offender into the community to serve part of their prison sentence. Offenders are under supervision by a parole officer and are required to abide by conditions designed to reduce the risk of re-offending and to foster re-integration into the community. Federal offenders serving determinate sentences are eligible to apply for parole after serving one third of their sentence.

Statutory release: Release of federal offenders into the community after serving two thirds of their sentence, unless they are detained by the NPB or they waive statutory release.

Long-term supervision order: Disposition that came into effect in Canada on August 1, 1997, in which the court can order that the offender be supervised in the community for a period not exceeding 10 years after having served a custody sentence of two years or more.

Methodology

The information presented in this *Juristat* comes from data collected on adult correctional services in Canada through two surveys: the Resources, Expenditures and Personnel (REP) Survey and the Adult Correctional Services (ACS) Survey. Data relating to operating expenditures and personnel are collected through the REP while the ACS Survey collects aggregate caseload and case characteristics information on adult offenders (18 years and over) under some form of provincial, territorial or federal correctional supervision. The data are provided by the various provincial, territorial and federal ministries, departments and agencies that administer correctional services across the country. As a result of consistent counting practices within jurisdictions over time, statements may be made about the trends within each jurisdiction. These surveys are conducted annually, on a fiscal-year basis.

Given that data are reported in aggregate form, there are limits to the types of analyses or cross-tabulations that can be performed. For example, data such as median age of offenders and median sentence length for each province cannot be combined to calculate a national median for all offenders.

Table 1

Admissions to provincial and territorial custody, by province and territory 1998/99 to 2001/02

| Jurisdiction | Year | Sentenced admissions | | Non-sentenced admissions | | | | | | Total | |
|--|----------------|----------------------|-------------|--------------------------|------------|-------------------------------|-------------|----------------|------------|----------------|------------|
| | | no. | % change | Remand | | Temporary detention/ other | | Total | | no. | % change |
| | | | | no. | % change | no. | % change | no. | % change | | |
| Total¹ | 1998/99 | 90,772 | ... | 103,874 | ... | 12,569 | ... | 116,443 | ... | 211,004 | ... |
| | 1999/00 | 84,706 | ... | 110,091 | ... | 21,563 | ... | 131,654 | ... | 220,200 | ... |
| | 2000/01 | 80,928 | -4.5 | 118,566 | 7.7 | 24,901 | 15.5 | 143,467 | 9.0 | 228,183 | 3.6 |
| | 2001/02 | 81,320 | 0.5 | 124,723 | 5.2 | 30,821 | 23.8 | 155,544 | 8.4 | 240,330 | 5.3 |
| Newfoundland and Labrador ² | 1998/99 | 1,199 | ... | 306 | ... | 5 | ... | 311 | ... | 1,510 | ... |
| | 1999/00 | 936 | -21.9 | 263 | -14.1 | 9 | 80.0 | 272 | -12.5 | 1,208 | -20.0 |
| | 2000/01 | 944 | 0.9 | 388 | 47.5 | 0 | -100.0 | 388 | 42.6 | 1,332 | 10.3 |
| | 2001/02 | 890 | -5.7 | 374 | -3.6 | 3 | ... | 377 | -2.8 | 1,267 | -4.9 |
| Prince Edward Island | 1998/99 | 803 | ... | 134 | ... | 0 | ... | 134 | ... | 937 | ... |
| | 1999/00 | 647 | -19.4 | 191 | 42.5 | 0 | ... | 191 | 42.5 | 838 | -10.6 |
| | 2000/01 | 586 | -9.4 | 176 | -7.9 | 0 | ... | 176 | -7.9 | 762 | -9.1 |
| | 2001/02 | 650 | 10.9 | 178 | 1.1 | 0 | ... | 178 | 1.1 | 828 | 8.7 |
| Nova Scotia | 1998/99 | 1,964 | ... | 1,399 | ... | 426 | ... | 1,825 | ... | 3,789 | ... |
| | 1999/00 | 1,825 | -7.1 | 1,553 | 11.0 | 462 | 8.5 | 2,015 | 10.4 | 3,840 | 1.3 |
| | 2000/01 | 1,624 | -11.0 | 1,758 | 13.2 | 406 | -12.1 | 2,164 | 7.4 | 3,788 | -1.4 |
| | 2001/02 | 1,507 | -7.2 | 1,881 | 7.0 | 467 | 15.0 | 2,348 | 8.5 | 3,855 | 1.8 |
| New Brunswick ³ | 1998/99 | 2,273 | ... | 1,101 | ... | 0 | ... | 1,101 | ... | 3,374 | ... |
| | 1999/00 | 2,179 | ... | 1,301 | ... | 0 | ... | 1,301 | ... | 3,480 | 3.1 |
| | 2000/01 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2,884 | ... |
| | 2001/02 | 1,555 | ... | 1,337 | ... | 574 | ... | 1,911 | ... | 3,466 | ... |
| Quebec | 1998/99 | 21,735 | ... | 25,342 | ... | 2,714 | ... | 28,056 | ... | 49,791 | ... |
| | 1999/00 | 18,016 | -17.1 | 25,814 | 1.9 | 2,698 | ... | 28,512 | 1.6 | 46,528 | -6.6 |
| | 2000/01 | 14,951 | -17.0 | 26,063 | 1.0 | 2,897 | -0.6 | 28,960 | 1.6 | 43,911 | -5.6 |
| | 2001/02 | 14,372 | -3.9 | 27,341 | 4.9 | 2,984 | 3.0 | 30,325 | 4.7 | 44,697 | 1.8 |
| Ontario | 1998/99 | 32,815 | ... | 45,351 | ... | 5,151 | ... | 50,502 | ... | 83,317 | ... |
| | 1999/00 | 30,747 | -6.3 | 46,637 | 2.8 | 5,533 | 7.4 | 52,170 | 3.3 | 82,917 | -0.5 |
| | 2000/01 | 30,999 | 0.8 | 52,179 | 11.9 | 3,239 | -41.5 | 55,418 | 6.2 | 86,417 | 4.2 |
| | 2001/02 | 31,980 | 3.2 | 56,370 | 8.0 | 8,257 | 154.9 | 64,627 | 16.6 | 96,607 | 11.8 |
| Manitoba ⁴ | 1998/99 | 1,393 | ... | 3,182 | ... | 3,955 | ... | 7,137 | ... | 8,530 | ... |
| | 1999/00 | 3,284 | ... | 6,567 | ... | 4,736 | ... | 11,303 | ... | 14,587 | ... |
| | 2000/01 | 2,901 | -11.7 | 6,955 | 5.9 | 4,924 | 4.0 | 11,879 | 5.1 | 14,780 | 1.3 |
| | 2001/02 | 3,025 | 4.3 | 7,625 | 9.6 | 5,554 | 12.8 | 13,179 | 10.9 | 16,204 | 9.6 |
| Saskatchewan | 1998/99 | 3,850 | ... | 7,175 | ... | 314 | ... | 7,489 | ... | 11,339 | ... |
| | 1999/00 | 3,368 | -12.5 | 8,665 | 20.8 | 200 | -36.3 | 8,865 | 18.4 | 12,233 | 7.9 |
| | 2000/01 | 3,219 | -4.4 | 9,548 | 10.2 | 222 | 11.0 | 9,770 | 10.2 | 12,989 | 6.2 |
| | 2001/02 | 3,410 | 5.9 | 10,278 | 7.6 | 157 | -29.3 | 10,435 | 6.8 | 13,845 | 6.6 |
| Alberta | 1998/99 | 15,491 | ... | 8,298 | ... | 0 | ... | 8,298 | ... | 23,789 | ... |
| | 1999/00 | 14,728 | -4.9 | 7,784 | -6.2 | 0 | ... | 7,784 | -6.2 | 22,512 | -5.4 |
| | 2000/01 | 14,859 | 0.9 | 8,179 | 5.1 | 0 | ... | 8,179 | 5.1 | 23,038 | 2.3 |
| | 2001/02 | 15,164 | 2.1 | 8,875 | 8.5 | 0 | ... | 8,875 | 8.5 | 24,039 | 4.3 |
| British Columbia ⁵ | 1998/99 | 9,628 | ... | 11,076 | ... | 0 | ... | 11,076 | ... | 20,704 | ... |
| | 1999/00 | 9,739 | 1.2 | 11,602 | 4.7 | 7,919 | ... | 19,521 | 76.2 | 29,260 | 41.3 |
| | 2000/01 | 9,520 | -2.2 | 12,185 | 5.0 | 13,199 | 66.7 | 25,384 | 30.0 | 34,904 | 19.3 |
| | 2001/02 | 9,263 | -2.7 | 10,687 | -12.3 | 13,362 | 1.2 | 24,049 | -5.3 | 33,312 | -4.6 |
| Yukon | 1998/99 | 300 | ... | 318 | ... | 4 | ... | 322 | ... | 622 | ... |
| | 1999/00 | 308 | 2.7 | 321 | 0.9 | 6 | 50.0 | 327 | 1.6 | 635 | 2.1 |
| | 2000/01 | 294 | -4.5 | 302 | -5.9 | 13 | 116.7 | 315 | -3.7 | 609 | -4.1 |
| | 2001/02 | 280 | -4.8 | 323 | 7.0 | 24 | 84.6 | 347 | 10.2 | 627 | 3.0 |
| Northwest Territories ⁶ | 1998/99 | 1,594 | ... | 1,293 | ... | ... | ... | 1,293 | ... | 2,887 | ... |
| | 1999/00 | 1,108 | -30.5 | 694 | -46.3 | ... | ... | 694 | -46.3 | 1,802 | -37.6 |
| | 2000/01 | 802 | -27.6 | 628 | -9.5 | 1 | ... | 629 | -9.4 | 1,431 | -20.6 |
| | 2001/02 | 562 | -29.9 | 237 | -62.3 | 13 | ... | 250 | -60.3 | 812 | -43.3 |
| Nunavut | 1998/99 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| | 1999/00 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| | 2000/01 | 229 | ... | 205 | ... | 0 | ... | 205 | ... | 434 | ... |
| | 2001/02 | 217 | -5.2 | 554 | 170.2 | 0 | ... | 554 | 170.2 | 771 | 77.6 |

Note: The method of calculation of admission to custody can be different from one province to another. Thus, interjurisdictional comparisons should be made with caution.

... not available for a specific reference period

... not applicable

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1. New Brunswick has been included only in the total due to missing data in the sub-categories

2. Due to Y2K system problems, the data from 1999/00 is estimated.

3. Total admission figures for 1998/99 and 1999/00 were reported on a fiscal year basis, while the breakdown was calculated according to the calendar year. The breakdown of admissions was unavailable for 2000/01; for this reason the figures do not add up to the total for that province. Data for 2000/01 are from a new operational system, therefore caution is recommended when comparing data from that year with that of previous years.

4. Given major system development work leading to a change in the source of these data, there are some comparability issues with respect to Manitoba data for 1999/00 against previous years. Accordingly, no percentage variations from 1999/00 to 2000/01 are shown.

5. 'Other/temporary detention' denotes pre-court lock-ups in a correctional facility, which is a new category beginning in 1999/00.

6. Large decreases are due to the creation of Nunavut on April 1, 1999.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Adult Correctional Services Survey.

Table 2

Adult admissions to provincial, territorial and federal sentenced custody by major offence, 2001/02

| Jurisdiction | Unit of Count ¹ | Total admissions | Criminal Code | | | | Total | Other federal statutes | | | Other ² |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------------|------------------|--------------------|-----------------|------------------|---------------------|-------|------------------------|-------|-------|--------------------|
| | | | Crimes of violence | Property crimes | Impaired driving | Other Criminal Code | | Drug offences | Other | Total | |
| | | number | | | % | | | | % | | % |
| <i>Provincial and territorial</i> | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Newfoundland and Labrador | MSO | 890 | 27 | 19 | 21 | 17 | 85 | 1 | 13 | 14 | 0 |
| Prince Edward Island | MSO | 650 | 18 | 13 | 55 | 13 | 99 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| Nova Scotia | MSO | 1,507 | 17 | 21 | 11 | 38 | 87 | 6 | 2 | 8 | 5 |
| New Brunswick | MSO | 1,555 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| Quebec | MSO | 14,372 | 4 | 10 | 12 | 9 | 36 | 5 | 0 | 5 | 59 |
| Ontario | MSO | 31,980 | 32 | 25 | 7 | 26 | 89 | 7 | 1 | 8 | 3 |
| Manitoba | MSO | 3,025 | 57 | 17 | 6 | 13 | 93 | 2 | 4 | 5 | 2 |
| Saskatchewan | MSO | 3,410 | 30 | 19 | 12 | 31 | 93 | 0 | 3 | 3 | 5 |
| Alberta | MC | 45,439 | 8 | 22 | 4 | 36 | 71 | 3 | 1 | 4 | 25 |
| British Columbia | MSD | 9,263 | 15 | 29 | 3 | 30 | 77 | 7 | 8 | 14 | 8 |
| Yukon | MC | 1,911 | 23 | 20 | 5 | 48 | 96 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 1 |
| Northwest Territories | MSO | 562 | 49 | 23 | 14 | 14 | 100 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Nunavut | MC | 847 | 40 | 34 | 5 | 13 | 93 | 6 | 0 | 6 | 1 |
| <i>Federal</i> | MSO | 4,127 | 54 | 19 | 2 | 10 | 87 | 14 | 0 | 14 | 0 |

Note: Percentages may not add up to 100 due to rounding.

.. figures not available for specific reference period

1. MSO = most serious offence

MSD = most serious disposition

MC = multiple charge

Alberta, Yukon and Nunavut classify program admissions using a 'multiple charge' method. This means that an individual commencing a custody program for multiple charges will be counted for each distinct but separate charge.

2. Includes provincial and territorial statutes and municipal by-laws. In Quebec the percentage shown represents in large part admissions related to non payment of fines (80%).

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Adult Correctional Services Survey, 2001/02.

Table 3



Conditional sentences and probation commencements, 1997/98 to 2001/02

| Jurisdiction | | Conditional sentences | % change | Probation | % change |
|---------------------------|---------|-----------------------|----------|-----------|----------|
| Newfoundland and Labrador | 1997/98 | 304 | ... | 1,982 | ... |
| | 1998/99 | 300 | -1.3 | 1,903 | -4.0 |
| | 1999/00 | 310 | 3.3 | 1,811 | -4.8 |
| | 2000/01 | 319 | 2.9 | 1,906 | 5.2 |
| | 2001/02 | 316 | -0.9 | 2,134 | 12.0 |
| Prince Edward Island | 1997/98 | 29 | ... | 744 | ... |
| | 1998/99 | 35 | 20.7 | 564 | -24.2 |
| | 1999/00 | 50 | 42.9 | 592 | 5.0 |
| | 2000/01 | 40 | -20.0 | 533 | -10.0 |
| | 2001/02 | 40 | 0.0 | 563 | 5.6 |
| Nova Scotia | 1997/98 | 476 | ... | 3,715 | ... |
| | 1998/99 | 510 | 7.1 | 3,719 | 0.1 |
| | 1999/00 | 628 | 23.1 | 3,791 | 1.9 |
| | 2000/01 | 623 | -0.8 | 3,653 | -3.6 |
| | 2001/02 | 614 | -1.4 | 3,547 | -2.9 |
| New Brunswick | 1997/98 | 596 | ... | 1,858 | ... |
| | 1998/99 | 507 | -14.9 | 1,740 | -6.4 |
| | 1999/00 | 499 | -1.6 | 1,429 | -17.9 |
| | 2000/01 | 682 | 36.7 | 1,733 | 21.3 |
| | 2001/02 | 667 | -2.2 | 1,830 | 5.6 |
| Quebec | 1997/98 | 3,983 | ... | 7,225 | ... |
| | 1998/99 | 4,202 | 5.5 | 6,877 | -4.8 |
| | 1999/00 | 4,557 | 8.4 | 7,098 | 3.2 |
| | 2000/01 | 4,259 | -6.5 | 7,704 | 8.5 |
| | 2001/02 | 4,670 | 9.7 | 8,277 | 7.4 |
| Ontario | 1997/98 | 4,293 | ... | 35,930 | ... |
| | 1998/99 | 3,690 | -14.0 | 34,469 | -4.1 |
| | 1999/00 | 4,271 | 15.7 | 33,432 | -3.0 |
| | 2000/01 | 4,211 | -1.4 | 34,920 | 4.5 |
| | 2001/02 | 4,416 | 4.9 | 38,236 | 9.5 |
| Manitoba ¹ | 1997/98 | 526 | ... | 3,659 | ... |
| | 1998/99 | 672 | 27.8 | 4,426 | ... |
| | 1999/00 | 584 | -13.1 | ... | ... |
| | 2000/01 | 705 | 20.7 | 6,811 | ... |
| | 2001/02 | 766 | 8.7 | 5,219 | -23.4 |
| Saskatchewan | 1997/98 | 928 | ... | 3,261 | ... |
| | 1998/99 | 1,083 | 16.7 | 3,305 | 1.3 |
| | 1999/00 | 1,243 | 14.8 | 3,242 | -1.9 |
| | 2000/01 | 1,365 | 9.8 | 3,457 | 6.6 |
| | 2001/02 | 1,344 | -1.5 | 3,402 | -1.6 |
| Alberta | 1997/98 | 1,343 | ... | 7,794 | ... |
| | 1998/99 | 1,035 | -22.9 | 8,544 | 9.6 |
| | 1999/00 | 1,120 | 8.2 | 8,706 | 1.9 |
| | 2000/01 | 1,558 | 39.1 | 9,360 | 7.5 |
| | 2001/02 | 1,731 | 11.1 | 9,438 | 0.8 |
| British Columbia | 1997/98 | 2,080 | ... | 13,440 | ... |
| | 1998/99 | 2,142 | 3.0 | 12,805 | -4.7 |
| | 1999/00 | 2,439 | 13.9 | 12,283 | -4.1 |
| | 2000/01 | 3,226 | 32.3 | 11,509 | -6.3 |
| | 2001/02 | 3,712 | 15.1 | 11,067 | -3.8 |
| Yukon | 1997/98 | 50 | ... | 451 | ... |
| | 1998/99 | 60 | 20.0 | 467 | 3.5 |
| | 1999/00 | 91 | 51.7 | 405 | -13.3 |
| | 2000/01 | 96 | 5.5 | 353 | -12.8 |
| | 2001/02 | 104 | 8.3 | 338 | -4.2 |

(continued)

Table 3

Conditional sentences and probation commencements, 1997/98 to 2001/02 (Concluded)

| Jurisdiction | | Conditional sentences | % change | Probation | % change |
|--|---------|-----------------------|----------|-----------|----------|
| Northwest Territories | 1997/98 | . | ... | 1,547 | ... |
| | 1998/99 | . | ... | .. | ... |
| | 1999/00 | . | ... | .. | ... |
| | 2000/01 | . | ... | .. | ... |
| | 2001/02 | . | ... | .. | ... |
| Nunavut | 1997/98 | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| | 1998/99 | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| | 1999/00 | .. | ... | .. | ... |
| | 2000/01 | .. | ... | .. | ... |
| | 2001/02 | 198 | ... | 801 | ... |
| Provincial/territorial total (includes all data) | 1997/98 | 14,608 | ... | 81,606 | ... |
| | 1998/99 | 14,236 | ... | 78,819 | ... |
| | 1999/00 | 15,792 | ... | 72,789 | ... |
| | 2000/01 | 17,084 | ... | 81,939 | ... |
| | 2001/02 | 18,578 | ... | 84,852 | ... |
| Provincial/territorial total ² (excludes jurisdictions with missing data) | 1997/98 | 14,608 | ... | 76,400 | ... |
| | 1998/99 | 14,236 | -2.5 | 74,393 | -2.6 |
| | 1999/00 | 15,792 | 10.9 | 72,789 | -2.2 |
| | 2000/01 | 17,084 | 8.2 | 75,128 | 3.2 |
| | 2001/02 | 18,380 | 7.6 | 78,832 | 4.9 |

. not available for any reference period

.. not available for a specific reference period

... not applicable

1. Due to system changes in 1999/00, probation data prior to this year should not be compared with later data.

2. To allow year-over-year comparisons, Manitoba, Northwest Territories and Nunavut have been excluded from the probation totals due to missing data in some years, and Nunavut has been excluded from the conditional sentences total for 2001/02.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Adult Correctional Services Survey.

Table 4

Admissions to probation by major offence, 2000/01 and 2001/02

| Jurisdiction | Year | Total probation admissions | Criminal Code | | | | Other federal statutes | | Prov./terr. statutes and municipal by-laws |
|--|---------|----------------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|---------------------|-----------------|------------------------|-------|--|
| | | | Crimes of violence | Property crimes | Impaired driving | Other | Drug offences | Other | |
| | | | | | | | | | |
| | | Number | | % | | | % | % | |
| Newfoundland and Labrador ¹ | 2000/01 | 1,906 | 37 | 33 | 5 | 19 | 5 | 1 | 1 |
| | 2001/02 | 2,134 | 37 | 33 | 5 | 18 | 5 | 1 | 1 |
| Prince Edward Island | 2000/01 | 533 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| | 2001/02 | 563 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| Nova Scotia | 2000/01 | 3,653 | 34 | 24 | 6 | 29 | 6 | 1 | 0 |
| | 2001/02 | 3,547 | 35 | 23 | 7 | 28 | 7 | 1 | 0 |
| New Brunswick ² | 2000/01 | 1,733 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| | 2001/02 | 1,830 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| Quebec | 2000/01 | 7,704 | 30 | 37 | 4 | 18 | 11 | 0 | 0 |
| | 2001/02 | 8,277 | 31 | 35 | 4 | 18 | 11 | 1 | 0 |
| Ontario | 2000/01 | 34,920 | 45 | 30 | 6 | 8 | 6 | 0 | 1 |
| | 2001/02 | 38,236 | 53 | 23 | 5 | 12 | 6 | 0 | 1 |
| Manitoba ³ | 2000/01 | 6,811 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| | 2001/02 | 5,219 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| Saskatchewan | 2000/01 | 3,457 | 46 | 24 | 7 | 13 ^r | 0 | 5 | 0 |
| | 2001/02 | 3,402 | 47 | 23 | 7 | 12 | 0 | 5 | 0 |
| Alberta | 2000/01 | 9,360 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| | 2001/02 | 9,438 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| British Columbia | 2000/01 | 11,509 | 40 | 32 | 4 | 14 | 8 | 0 | 1 |
| | 2001/02 | 11,067 | 40 | 33 | 3 | 14 | 8 | 0 | 1 |
| Yukon ¹ | 2000/01 | 353 | 32 | 21 | 7 | 33 | 4 | 0 | 4 |
| | 2001/02 | 338 | 33 | 15 | 5 | 41 | 3 | 0 | 3 |
| Northwest Territories | 2000/01 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| | 2001/02 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| Nunavut | 2000/01 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| | 2001/02 | 801 | 51 | 22 | 1 | 20 | 4 | 0 | 2 |
| Total | 2000/01 | 81,939 | 42 | 31 | 5 | 14 | 6 | 1 | 1 |
| | 2001/02 | 84,852 | 46 | 26 | 5 | 14 | 6 | 1 | 1 |

^r revised

.. not available for a specific reference period

1. Offences are reported as multiple charges rather than most serious offence.

2. Offence data unavailable due to a changeover to a new system.

3. Offence data unavailable due to major system development work.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Adult Correctional Services Survey, 2000/01 and 2001/02.

Table 5

Expenditures of the correctional system, 2001/02

| Jurisdiction | Current dollars | | | | | | | | Total | Per capita cost |
|--|--------------------|------|--------------------------------|------|-----------------------------------|------|--|-----|-----------|-----------------|
| | Custodial services | | Community supervision services | | Headquarters and central services | | NPB or provincial parole boards ³ | | | |
| | \$'000 | % | \$'000 | % | \$'000 | % | \$'000 | % | | |
| Federal expenditures | 977,229 | 68.6 | 153,581 | 10.8 | 259,286 | 18.2 | 34,500 | 2.4 | 1,424,596 | 45.83 |
| Provincial and territorial expenditures ² | 933,300 | 78.8 | 196,129 | 16.6 | 48,645 | 4.1 | 6,294 | 0.5 | 1,184,369 | 38.10 |
| Total expenditures | 1,910,529 | 73.2 | 349,710 | 13.4 | 307,931 | 11.8 | 40,794 | 1.6 | 2,608,965 | 83.93 |

Note: Figures may not add up to totals due to rounding.

1. Federal expenditures include Correctional Service Canada and National Parole Board, but exclude CORCAN.

2. Capital costs have been excluded from all jurisdictions' expenditures.

3. Provincial parole boards are in Quebec, Ontario and British Columbia.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Adult Correctional Services Survey, 2001-2002; Public Accounts of Canada.

Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics

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